PANDOSTO.

THE TRIVMPH OF TIME.

WHEREIN IS DISCOVERED BY A PLEASANT HISTORIE, THAT although by the meanes of ſiniſter *Fortune*, *TRVTH* may be concealed, yet by *TIME* in ſpite of *Fortune*, it is moſt manifeſtly Reuealed.

Pleaſant for Age to auoyde drowſie thoughts, profitable for Youth, to eſchew other wanton Paſtimes; and bringing to both a deſired Content.

Temporis filia, Veritas.

By ROBERT GREENE, Maiſter of Arts in *Cambridge*.

Omne tulit punctum qui miſcuit vtile dulci.

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UMI

TO THE GENTLEMEN READERS, HEALTH.

THe paultry Poet APHRANIVS *being blamed for troubling the Emperour* TRAIAN, *with ſo many Doating Poemes: aduentured notwithſtanding, ſtill to preſent him with Rude and homely Verſes, excuſing himſelfe with the courteſie of the Emperour, which did as friendly accept, as hee fondly offered. So Gentlemen, If any condemne my raſhneſſe for troubling your Eares with ſo many vnlearned Pamphlets, I will ſtraight ſhrowd my ſelfe vnder the ſhadow of your Courteſies, and with* Aphranius, *lay the blame on you; As well on you for friendly Reading them, as on my ſelfe fondly Penning them. Hoping, though fond, curious, or rather curriſh Backbyters breath out ſlaunderous ſpeeches: Yet the courteous Readers (whome I feare to offend) will requite my Trauell, at the leaſt with Silence. And in this Hope, I reſt: wiſhing you health and happines.*

ROBERT GREENE.

TO THE RIGHT HONOVRABLE Lord, GEORGE CLYFFORD Earle of *Cumberland*; ROBERT GREENE wisheth increase of Honour and Vertue.

THE *Rascians* (Right Honourable) when by long gazing against the Sunne, they become halfe blinde, recouer their sights by looking on the blacke *Load-stone: Vnicornes* being glutted with brousing on rootes of *Lycoras*, sharpen their stomacks with crashing bitter grasse.

Alexander vouchsafed aswell to smile at the crooked picture of *Vulcan:* as to wonder at the curious counterfeit of *Venus*. The minde is sometimes delighted as much with small trifles, as with sumptuous Triumphs; and as well pleased with hearing of *Pans* homely fancies, as of *Hercules* renowned Labours.

Silly *Baucis* could not serue *Iupiter* in a siluer Plate, but in a Wodden-dish. All that honour *Æsculapius*, decke not his shrine with Iewels. *Apollo* giues Oracles, as well to the poore man for his mite, as to the rich man for his treasure. The stone *Echites* is not so much liked for the colour, as for vertue: and guifts are not to be measured by the worth, but by the will. *Mison* that vnskilfull Painter of *Greece*, aduentured to giue vnto *Darius* the shield of *Pallas*, so roughly shadowed, as he smiled more at the

folly of the Man, then at the imperfection of the Art. So I preſent vnto your Honour *The Triumph of Time*, ſo rudely finiſhed, as I feare your Honour will rather frowne at my impudencie, then laugh at my Ignorance: But I hope my willing minde ſhall excuſe my ſlender skill, and your Honours courteſie ſhadow my raſhnes.

They which feare the byting of *Vipers*, doe carry in their hands the plumes of a *Phœnix*. *Phydias* dreſt *Vulcan* ſitting in a chayre of Yuorie. *Ceſars*-Crowe durſt neuer crye *Aue*, but when ſhe was pearked on the *Capitoll*. And I ſeeke to ſhrowd this imperfect Pamphlet vnder your Honors Patronage, doubting the dint of ſuch invenomed-Vipers, as ſeeke with their ſlanderous reproches to carpe at all, being oftentimes moſt vnlearned of all: and aſſure my ſelfe, that your Honours renowned valour, and vertuous diſpoſition, ſhall be ſufficient defence to protect me from the poyſoned tongues of ſuch ſcorning Sycophants; hoping that as *Iupiter* vouhſafed to lodge in *Philemons* thatched Cottage; and *Philip* of *Macedon*, to take a bunch of grapes of a Countrey-Peaſant: So I hope your Honour meaſuring my worke by my will, and weighing more the minde, then the matter, will (when you haue caſt a glaunce at this toy) with *Minerua*, vnder your golden Targer, couer a deformed Owle. And in this hope I reſt, Wiſhing vnto you and the vertuous Counteſſe your Wife, ſuch happy ſucceſſe as your Honours can deſire or imagine.

Your Lordſhips moſt dutifull,

to command,

ROBERT GREENE.

THE HISTORY OF
DORASTVS & FAWNIA.

Amongſt all the Paſſions wherewith humane minds are perplexed, there is none that ſo galleth with reſtleſſe deſpight, as that infectious ſore of Iealouſie: For all other griefes are either to bee appeaſed with ſenſible perſwaſions, to be cured with wholſome Counſell, to be relieued in want, or by tract of time to be worne out, Iealouſie onely excepted, which is ſauced with ſuſpitious doubts, and pinching miſtruſt, that who ſo ſeeks by friendly counſell to raſe out this hellish paſſion, it forthwith ſuſpecteth that he giueth this aduice to couer his owne guiltineſſe. Yea who ſo is pinched with this reſtles torment, doubteth all diſtruſteth himſelfe, is alwaies frozen with feare, and fired with ſuſpition, hauing that wherin conſiſteth all his ioy, to be the breeder of his miſerie. Yea it is ſuch an heauie enemie to that holy eſtate of matrimonie, ſowing betweene the married couples ſuch deadly ſeeds of ſecret hatred, as loue being once raſed out by ſpiteful diſtruſt, there oft enſueth bloody reuenge, as this enſuing hiſtory manifeſtly proueth: wherein Pandoſto (furiouſly incenſed by a cauſleſſe iealouſie) procured the death of his moſt louing and loyall wife, and his owne endleſſe ſorrow and miſery.

IN the Country of Bohemia, there raigned a King called Pandoſto, whoſe fortunate ſucceſſe in warres againſt his foes, and bountifull curteſie towards his friendes in peace, made him to be greatly feared and loued of all men. This Pandoſto had to wife a Lady called Bellaria, by birth royall, learned by education, faire by nature, by vertues famous: ſo that it was

greateſt commendations. Theſe two linked together in perfect loue, led their liues with ſuch fortunate content, that their Subiects greatly reioyced to ſee their quiet diſpoſition. They had not bin married long, but fortune (willing to increaſe their happineſſe) ſent them a Sonne, ſo adorned with the gifts of nature as the perfection of the Childe greatly augmented the loue of the Parents, and the ioy of their Commons: inſo much that the Bohemians to ſhew their inward ioyes by outward actions, made Bonefires and Triumphs throughout all the King dome, appoynting iuſts and Turneys for the honour of their young Prince: whither reſorted not onely his Nobles, but alſo diuers Kings and Princes which were his Neighbours, willing to ſhew their friendſhip they ought to Pandoſto, & to winne fame and glory by their proweſſe and valour. Pandoſto whoſe minde was fraught with Princely liberality, entertained the Kinges, Princes and Noblemen with ſuch ſubmiſſe curteſie, and magnificall bountie, that they all ſaw how willing he was to gratifie their good wils, making a generall feaſt for all his ſubiects, which continued by the ſpace of twenty dayes; all which time the Iuſts and Turneys were kept to the great content both of the Lords and Ladyes there preſent. This ſolemne triumph being once ended, the aſſembly taking their leaue of Pandoſto and Bellaria, the young ſonne (who was called Garinter) was nurſed vp in the houſe, to the great ioy and content of the Parents. Fortune enuious of ſuch happy ſucceſſe, willing to ſhew ſome ſigne of her inconſtancy, turned her wheele, and darkned their bright Sun of proſperity with the miſtie clouds of miſhap and miſery. For it ſo happened that Egiſtus King of Sycilia, who in his youth had bin brought vp with Pandoſto, deſirous to ſhew that neither tract of time nor diſtance of place could diminiſh their former friendſhip, prouided a Nauy of ſhips and ſailed into Bohemia, to viſit his old friend and companion: Who hearing of his arriuall, went himſelfe in perſon and his wife Bellaria, accompanied with a great traine of Lords and Ladyes, to meet Egiſtus: and eſpying him, alighted from his horſe, embraced him very louingly, proteſting, that nothing in the world could haue happned more acceptable to him then his comming, wiſhing his wife to welcome

him whom her husband loued) entertained him with ſuch familiar curteſie, as Egiſtus perceiued himſelfe to be very well welcome. After they had thus ſaluted and embraced each other, they mounted againe on horſe back, and rode toward the Citty, deuiſing and recounting, how being children they had paſſed their youth in friendly paſtimes: where, by the meanes of the Citizens, Egiſtus was receiued with triumphes and ſhewes, in ſuch ſort, that he marualled how on ſo ſmall a warning, they could make ſuch preparation. Paſſing the ſtreetes thus with ſuch rare ſights, they rode on to the Pallace: where Pandoſto entertained Egiſtus & his Sycilians with ſuch banquetting and ſumptuous cheare, ſo royally as they had all cauſe to commend his Princely liberality: yea, the very baſeſt ſlaue that was knowne to come from *Sycilia* was vſed with ſuch curteſie, that Egiſtus might eaſily perceiue, how both he and his were honoured for his friends ſake. Bellaria (who in her time was the flower of curteſie) willing to ſhew how vnfainedly ſhe loued her husband, by his friends entertainment, vſed him likewiſe ſo familiarly, that her countenance bewrayed how her minde was affected towards him: oftentimes comming herſelfe into his bedchamber, to ſee that nothing ſhould be amis to diſlike him. This honeſt familiaritie increaſed daily more & more betwixt them: for Ballaria noting in Egiſtus a Princely and bountifull minde, adorned with ſundry and excellent qualities, and Egiſtus finding in her a vertuous and courteous diſpoſition, there grew ſuch a ſecret vniting of their affections, that the one could not well be without the company of the other: inſomuch that when Pandoſto was buſied with ſuch vrgent affaires, that hee could not be preſent with his friend Egiſtus, Bellaria would walke with him in the Garden, and there they two in priuate pleaſant deuiſes, would paſſe away their time to both their contents. This cuſtome ſtill continuing betwixt them, a certaine melancholy paſſion entring the minde of Pandoſto, driue him into ſundry & doubtfull thoughts. Firſt, he called to minde the beautie of his wife Bellaria, the comlineſſe and braueric of his friend Egiſtus, thinking that loue was aboue all Lawes, and therfore to bee ſtayed with no law: that it was hard to put fire and ſtare together without burning, that their open pleaſures might breede

his secret displeasures. He considered with himselfe, that Egistus was a man, & must needs loue: that his wife was a woman, and therfore subiect to loue: and that where fancy forced, friendship was of no force. These & such like doubtful thoughts a long time smothering in his stomacke, began at last to kindle in his minde a secret mistrust, which increased by suspition, grew at last to flaming iealousie, that so tormented him as he could take no rest. He then began to measure all their actions, and misconstrue of their too priuate familiaritie, iudging that it was not for honest affection, but for misordinate fancy: so as he began to watch them more narrowly, to see if he could get any true or certaine proofe to confirme his doubtfull suspition. While thus he noted her lookes and gestures, and suspected their thoughts & meanings, they two silly soules, who doubted nothing of this his trecherous intent, frequented daily each others company: which drawe him into such a frantick passion, that he began to beare a secret hate to Egistus, and a lowring countenance to Bellaria: who marueilling at such vnaccustomed frownes, began to cast beyond the moone, & to enter into a 1000. sundry thoughts, which way she should offend her husband: but finding in her selfe a cleere conscience, ceased to muse, till such time as she might finde opportunitie to demaund the cause of his dumps. In the meane time, Pandostoes minde was so far charged with iealousie that he no longer doubted, but was assured (as he thought) that his friend Egistus had entred a wrong point in his tables, and so had plaid himselfe play. Wherupon desirous to reuenge so great an iniurie, he thought best to dissemble the grudge with a faire & friendly countenance: & so vnder the shape of a friend, to shew him the trick of a foe. Deuising with himselfe a long time, how he might best put away Egistus, without suspition of trecherous murther, concluded at last to poyson him. Which opinion pleasing his humour, he became resolute in his determination. and the better to bring the matter to passe, he called to him his cup-bearer, with whom in secret he brake the matter: promising him for the performance thereof, to giue him 1000. crownes of yerly reuenues. His cup-bearer, either being of a good conscience, or willing for fashions sake to deny such a blouddy request, beganne with great reasons to perswade Pandosto

from his determinate miſchiefe: ſhewing him what an offence murther was to the Gods, how much vnnaturall actions did more diſpleaſe the heauens, then men; & that cauſeleſſe cruelty did ſildome or neuer eſcape without reuenge: he layd before his face, that Egiſtus was his friend, a King, & one that was come into his Kingdome; to confirme a league of perpetuall amitie betwixt them; that he had, & did ſhew him a moſt friendly countenance how Egiſtus was not onely honored of his owne people by obedience, but alſo loued of the Bohemians for his curteſie. And that if he now ſhould, without any iuſt or manifeſt cauſe, poyſon him it would not onely be a great diſhonour to his Maieſty, and a meanes to ſow perpetuall enmity betwéne the Sycilians and the Bohemians, but alſo his owne ſubiects would repine at ſuch trecherous cruelty. Theſe and ſuch like perſwaſions of Franion (for ſo was his Cup bearer called) could no whit preuaile to diſwade him from his diuelliſh enterpriſe: but remaining reſolute in his determination (his fury ſo fired with rage: as it could not bee appeaſed with reaſon) hee began with bitter taunts to take vp his man, & to lay before him two baites; preferment and death: ſaying that if he would poyſon Egiſtus, hée would aduance him to high dignities: if he refuſed to doe it of an obſtinate minde, and torture ſhould be too great to requite his diſobedience. Franion, ſéeing that to perſwade Pandoſto any more, was but to ſtriue againſt the ſtreame, conſented, as ſoone as opportunity would giue him leaue, to diſpatch Egiſtus wherwith Pandoſto remained ſomewhat ſatisfied, hoping now hée ſhould be fully reuenged of ſuch miſtruſted iniuries, intending alſo as ſoone as Egiſtus was deade, to giue his wife a ſop of the ſame ſawce, & ſo be rid of thoſe which were the cauſe of his reſtleſſe ſorrow. while thus he liued in this hope, Franion being ſecret in his chamber began to meditate with himſelfe in theſe termes.

AH Franion, treaſon is loued of many, but the traitor hated of all: vniuſt offences may for a time eſcape without danger, but neuer without reuenge. Thou art ſeruant to a King, & muſt obey at command: yet Franion, againſt law & conſcience, it is not good to reſiſt a tyrant with armes, nor to pleaſe an vniuſt King with obedience. What ſhalt thou doe? Fully refuſed

gold, and frenzie preferment; wiſedome ſéeketh after dignity, and counſell loketh for gaine. Egiſtus is a ſtranger to thée, and Pandoſto thy Soueraigne: thou haſt little cauſe to reſpect the one, and oughteſt to haue great care to obey the other. Thinke this Franion, that a pound of gold is worth a tunne of Lead, great gifts are little Gods: and preferment to a meane man is a whetſtone to courage: there is nothing ſwéeter then promotion, nor lighter then report: care not then though moſt count thée a traitor, ſo all call thée rich. Dignity (Franion) aduaunceth thy poſteritie, and euill report can but hurt thy ſelfe. Know this, where Eagles build, Faulcons may prey, where Lyons haunt, Foxes may ſcape. Kinges are knowne to commaund, ſeruants are blameleſſe to conſent: feare not thou then to lift at Egiſtus, Pandoſto ſhall beare the burthen. Yea but Franion, conſcience is a worme that euer biteth, but neuer ceaſeth: that which is rubbed with the ſtone Galactites will neuer be hot. Fleſh dipped in the Sea Ægeum, will neuer bée ſwéete: the hearbe Trigion, béeing once bit with an Aſpis, neuer groweth, and conſcience once ſtained with innocent bloud, is alwayes tyed to a guilty remorſe. Prefer thy content before riches, and a cleare minde before dignity: ſo béeing poore, thou ſhalt haue rich peace, or els rich, thou ſhalt enioy diſquiet.

FRanion hauing muttered out theſe or ſuch like words, ſeing either hée muſt die with a cleare minde, or liue with a ſpotted conſcience: hée was ſo cumbred with diuers cogitations that he could take no reſt: vntil at laſt he determined to breake the matter to Egiſtus: but fearing that the King ſhould eyther ſuſpect or heare of ſuch matters, hée concealed the deuice till opportunitie would permit him to reueale it. Lingring thus in doubtfull feare, in an euening hée went to Egiſtus lodging, and deſirous to ſpeake with him of certaine affaires that touched the King, after all were commaunded out of the Chamber, Franion made manifeſt the whole conſpiracie which Pandoſto had deuiſed againſt him, deſiring Egiſtus not to account him a Traytor for bewraying his Maiſters counſaile, but to thinke that he did it for conſcience: hoping that although his Maiſter inflamed with rage, or incenſed by ſome ſiniſter reportes or ſlanderous

ſpéches, had imagined ſuch cauſeleſſe miſchiefe: yet when time ſhould pacifie his anger, and try theſe talebearers but flattering Paraſites, then hée would count him as a faithfull ſeruant, that with ſuch care had kept his Maiſters credite. Egiſtus had not fully heard Franion tell forth his tale, but a quaking feare poſſeſſed all his limmes, thinking that there was ſome treaſon wrought, and that Franion did but ſhaddow his craft with theſe falſe colours: wherefore he began to waxe in choler, and ſayd that hée doubted not Pandoſto, ſith he was his friend, and there had neuer as yet béene any breach of amity: hée had not ſought to inuade his lands, to conſpire with his enemies, to diſſwade his Subiects from their allegeance: but in word and thought he reſted his at all times: he knew not therefore any cauſe, that ſhould moue Pandoſto to ſéeke his death, but ſuſpected it to bée a compacted knauery of the Bohemians, to bring the King and him at oddes. Franion ſtaying him in the midſt of his talke, told him, that to dally with Princes was with the ſwannes to ſing againſt their death, and that if the Bohemians had intended any ſuch miſchiefe, it might haue béene better brought to paſſe then by reuealing the conſpiracie: therefore his Maieſtie did ill to miſconſture of his good meaning, ſith his intent was to hinder treaſon, not to become a traytor: and to confirme his promiſes, if it pleaſed his maieſtie to fly into Sicilia for the ſafegarde of his life, hé would goe with him: and if then hée found not ſuch a practiſe to bée pretended, let his imagined treacherie bée repayed with moſt monſtrous torments. Egiſtus hearing the ſolemne proteſtations of Franion, began to conſider, that in Loue and Kingdomes, neither faith, nor lawe is to bée reſpected: doubting that Pandoſto thought by his death to deſtroy his men, and with ſpéedy warre to inuade Sycilia: Theſe and ſuch doubtes throughly weighed, hé gaue great thankes to Franion, promiſing if hée might with life returne to Syracuſa, that hée would create him a Duke in Sycilia: craning his Counſell how hée might eſcape out of the Countrie, Franion, who hauing ſome ſmall ſkill in Nauigation, was well acquainted with the Ports and hauens, and knew euery daunger in the Sea, ioyning in counſell with the Maiſter of Egiſtus Nauie, rigged all their

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ships, & setting them a floate, let him lie at anchor, to be in the more readines, when time and winde should serue. Fortune although blind, yet by chaunce fauouring this iust cause, sent them within six dayes a good gale of winde: which Franion séeing fit for their purpose, to put Pandosto out of suspition, the night before they should sayle, he went to him & promised, that the next day he would put the deuice in practise for he had got such a forcible poison as the very smel thereof wold procure sodain death Pandosto was ioyfull to heare this good newes, & thought euery houre a day, till he might be glutted with bloudy reuenge: but his suit had but ill successe, for Egistus fearing that delay might bréed danger, and willing that the grasse should not be cut from vnder his féete, taking bagge and baggage by the helpe of Franion, conueied himselfe and his men out at a posterne gate of the Citty, so secretly, and spédily, that without any suspition they got to the Sea shoare: where, with many a bitter curse taking their leaue of Bohemia, they went aboord weighing their Anchors, and hoisting sayle, they passed as fast as wind & sea would permit towards Sycilia: Egistus being a ioyful man that he had safely past such treacherous perils. But as they were quietly floating on the sea, as Pandosto & his Cittizens were in an vproare for séeing that the Sycilians without taking their leaue, were fled away by night, the Bohemians feared some treason, & the King thought that without question his suspition was true, séeing the Cup-bearer had bewraped the sum of his secret pretence. Whereupon he began to imagine that Franion and his wife Bellaria had conspired with Egistus, and that the feruent affection shée bare him was the onely meane of his secret departure: in so much that incensed with rage, hée commaunded that his wife should bee carried straight to prison, vntill they heard further of his pleasure. The Guarde vnwilling to lay their hands on such a vertuous Princesse, and yet fearing the kings fury, went very sorowfull to fulfill their charge: comming to the Quéenes lodging, they found her playing with her young sonne Garinter: vnto whom with teares doing the message Bellaria astonished at such a hard censure, and finding her cléere conscience a sure aduocate to pleads in her cause, went to the prison most willingly: where with sighes and teares, shée

paſt away the time, till ſhée might come to her triall.

But Pandoſto whoſe reaſon was ſuppreſſed with rage, and whoſe vnbridled follie was incenſed with fury: ſéeing Franion had bewrayed his ſecrets, and that Egiſtus might well bee rayled on, but not reuenged: determined to wreake all his wrath on poore Bellaria. Wherefore cauſed a generall proclamation to be made through all his Realme, that the Quéene & Egiſtus had by the helpe of Franion, not onely committed moſt inceſtuous adultery, but alſo had conſpired the Kings death: whereupon the Traitor Franion was fled away with Egiſtus, and Bellaria was moſt iuſtly impriſoned. This proclamation being once blazed through the country, although the vertuous diſpoſition of the Quéene did halfe diſcredit the contents, yet the ſodaine & ſpéedy paſſage of Egiſtus, and the ſecret departure of Franion induced them (the circumſtances throughly conſidered) to thinke that both the proclamation was true, and the King greatly iniured: yet they pitied her caſe, as ſorrowful, that ſo good a Lady ſhould bée croſſed with ſuch aduerſe Fortune. But the King, whoſe reſtleſſe rage would admit no pitty, thought that although hée might ſufficiently requite his wiues falſhood with the bitter plague of pinching penury, yet his minde ſhould neuer be glutted with reuenge, till hée might haue fit time and opportunity to repay the trechery of Egiſtus, with a fatall iniury. But a curſt Cow hath oftentimes ſhort hornes and a willing minde but a weake arme. For Pandoſto although hée felt that reuenge was a ſpurre to warre, and that enuy alwayes proffereth ſtéele yet hée ſaw, that Egiſtus was not onely of great puiſſance and prowéſſe to withſtand him, but had alſo many Kings of his alliance to ayde him, if néed ſhould ſerue: for he married the Emperours daughter of Ruſſia. Theſe and the like conſiderations ſomething daunted Pandoſto his courage, ſo that hée was content rather to put vp a manifeſt iniury with peace, then hunt after reuenge, diſhonor, and loſſe: determining ſince Egiſtus had eſcaped ſcot-frée, that Bellaria ſhould pay for all at an vnreaſonable price.

Remayning thus reſolute in his determination, Bellaria continuing ſtill in priſon, and hearing the contents of the Proclamation, reſolued that her minde was neuer touched with

ſuch affection, nor that Egiſtus had euer offered her ſuch diſcurteſie, would gladly haue come to her anſwer, that both ſhee might haue knowne her iuſt accuſers, and cleared her ſelfe of that guiltleſſe crime.

But Pandoſto was ſo inflamed with rage, and infected with Ielouſie, as hee would not vouchſafe to heare her, nor admit any iuſt excuſe: ſo that ſhee was faine to make a vertue of her neede, and with patience to beare theſe heauie iniuries. As thus ſhee lay croſſed with calamities (a great cauſe to increaſe her griefe) ſhee found her ſelfe quicke with childe: which as ſoone as ſhee felt ſtirre in her body, ſhee burſt forth into bitter teares, exclayming againſt fortune in theſe termes.

ALas Bellaria, how infortunate art thou, becauſe fortunate: Better thou hadſt beene borne a beggar, then a Prince, ſo ſhouldeſt thou haue bridled Fortune with want, where now ſhee ſporteth her ſelfe with thy plentie. Ah happy life, where poore thoughts, and meane deſires liue in ſecure content, not fearing Fortune becauſe to low. For Fortune, thou ſeeſt now Bellaria that care is a companion to honor, not to pouerty: that high Cedars are frushed with tempeſts, when lowe ſhrubs are not touched with the winde: pretious Diamonds are cut with the file, when deſpiſed pebble lye ſafe in the ſand, Delphos is ſought to by Princes, not beggars: and Fortunes Altars ſmoke with Kings preſents, not with poore mens gifts. Happie are ſuch Bellaria, that curſe Fortune for contempt, nor feare: and may wiſh they were, not ſorrow they haue beene. Thou art a Princeſſe Bellaria, and yet a priſoner: borne to the one by deſcent, aſſigned to the other by diſpite: accuſed without cauſe, and therefore oughteſt to dye without care; for patience is a ſhield againſt Fortune, and a guiltleſſe minde yeeldeth not to ſorrow. Ah but infamy galleth vnto death, and liueth after death: Report is plumed with times feathers, and Enuie often times ſoundeth Fames Trumpet: the ſuſpected adultery ſhall fly in the ayre, & thy knowne vertues ſhall lye hid in the Earth; one Moale ſtaineth a whole Face: and what is once ſpotted with Infamy can hardly bee worne out with time. Die then Bellaria, Bellaria die, for if the Gods ſhould ſee thy heart guiltleſſe

yet ennie would heare the Gods, but neuer beleeue the Gods. Ah hapleſſe wretch, ceaſe theſe termes: deſperate thoughts are fit for them that feare ſhame, not for ſuch as hope for credit. Pandoſto hath darkened thy fame, but ſhall neuer diſcredite thy vertues. Suſpition may enter a falſe action, but proofe ſhall neuer put in his plea: care not then for ennie, ſith report hath a biſſer on her tongue: and let ſorrow bite them, which offend, not touch thee that art faultleſſe. But alas poore ſoule, how canſt thou but ſorrow? Thou art with childe, and by him that inſteed of kind pitty, pincheth thee in colde priſon. And with that, ſuch gaſping ſighes ſtopping her breath, that ſhe could not vtter any more wordes, but wringing her hands, and guſhing forth ſtreames of teares, ſhee paſſed away the time with bitter complaints.

The Jaylor pitying thoſe her heauie paſſions, thinking that if the King knew ſhe were with childe, he would somewhat appeaſe his fury and releaſe her from priſon, went in al haſt, and certified Pandoſto what the effect of Bellarias complaint was: who no ſooner heard the Jaylor ſay ſhe was with childe, but as one poſſeſſed with a phrenzie, he roſe vp in a rage, ſwearing that ſhe, and the baſtard brat ſhe was withall ſhould die, if the Gods themſelues ſaid no: thinking that ſurely by computation of time that Egiſtus & not he was Father to the childe. This ſuſpitious thought galled afreſh this halfe healed ſore, in ſo much as hee could take no reſt, vntill hee might mitigate his choler with a inſt reuenge, which happened preſently after. Bellaria was brought to bed of a faire & beautifull daughter: which no ſooner Pandoſto heard, but he determined that both Bellaria and the young infant ſhould be burnt with fire. His Nobles, hearing of the Kings cruell ſentence, ſought by perſwaſions to diuert him from his bloudy determination: laying before his face the innocencie of the childe, and vertuous diſpoſition of his wife, how ſhe had continually loued and honoured him ſo tenderly, that without due proofe he could not, nor ought not to appeach her of that crime. And if ſhe had faulted, yet it were more honourable to pardon with mercy, then to puniſh with extremity, and more kingly, to be commended of pitty, then accuſed of rigour. And as

for the childe, if he should punish it for the mothers offence, it were to strive against nature and iustice: and that vnnaturall actions doe more offend the Gods, then men: how causeleſſe cruelty, no innocent bloud neuer ſcapes without reuenge. Theſe and ſuch like reaſons could not appeaſe his rage, but he reſted reſolute in this, that Bellaria being an Adultreſſe, the childe was a Baſtard, and hee would not ſuffer that ſuch an infamous brat ſhould call him Father. Yet at laſt (ſeeing his Noble men were importunate vpon him) he was content to ſpare the childes life, and yet to put it to a worſe death. For he found out this deuice, that ſeeing (as he thought) it came by fortune, ſo he would commit it to the charge of Fortune, and therefore he cauſed a little Cock boat to be prouided, wherein he meant to put the babe, & then ſend it to the mercies of the Seas, and the deſtemes. From this his Peeres in no wiſe could perſwade him, but that he ſent preſently two of his guard to fetch the childe: who being come to the priſon, and with weeping teares recounting their Maiſters meſſage: Bellaria no ſooner heard the rigorous reſolution of her mercileſſe husband, but ſhee fell downe in a ſwound, ſo that all thought ſhe had bin dead: yet at laſt being come to her ſelfe, ſhe cryed and ſcreeched out in this wiſe.

ALas ſweete infortunate babe, ſcarce borne before enuied by fortune, would the day of thy birth had beene the terme of my life: then ſhouldeſt thou haue made a ende to care, and preuented thy Fathers rigour. Thy faults cannot yet deſerue ſuch hatefull reuenge, thy dayes are too ſhort for ſo ſharpe a doome, but thy vntimely death muſt pay thy Mothers Debts, and her guiltleſſe crime muſt bee thy gaſtly curſe. And ſhalt thou ſweete Babe bee committed to Fortune when thou art already ſpited by Fortune? Shall the Seas be thy harbour, and the hard boate thy cradle? Shall thy tender Mouth, in ſtede of ſweete kiſſes, be nipped with bitter ſtormes? Shalt thou haue the whiſtling windes for thy Lullabie, & the ſalt Sea ſome in ſtede of ſweete Pilke? Alas, what deſtinies would aſſigne ſuch hard hap? What Father would be ſo cruel? Or what Gods will not reuenge ſuch rigor? Let mee kiſſe thy lippes (ſweet Infant) and wet thy tender cheekes with my teares, & put this chapp

about thy little wracke: that if Fortune saue thée, it may helpe to succour thée. Thus, since thou must goe to surge in the gastfull seas, with a sorrowfull title I bid thée farewell, and I pray the Gods thou maist fare well. Such, and so great was her griefe, that her vitall spirits being suppressed with sorrow, she fell againe downe into a trance, hauing her sences so lotted with care, that after she was reuiued, yet shé lost her memories, and lay for a great time without mouing, as one in a trance. The guard left her in this perplexity, and carryed the childe to the King: who quite voyde of pittie, commanded that without delay it should be put into the Boate, hauing neither saile nor rudder to guide it, and so to be carried into the midst of the Sea, and there left to the winde and waues, as the destinies please to appoint. The very ship men séeing the sweete countenance of the yong babe, began to accuse the King of rigor, and to pitty the childes hard fortune: but feare constrained them to that which their nature did abhor: so that they placed it in one of the ends of the Boate, and with a few greene bowes made a homely cabbin to shrowd it, as they could from winde and weather. Hauing thus trimmed a Boate, they tyed it to a ship, and so haled it into the maine Sea, and then cut in sunder the corde: which they had no sooner done, but there arose a mighty tempest, which tossed the little Boate so vehemently in the waues, that the Ship men thought it could not continue long without sinking: yea, the storme grew so great, that with much labour and perill they got to the shore. But, leauing the childe to her fortunes, againe to Pandosto: who not yet glutted with sufficient reuenge, deuised which way he should best increase his wiues calamity. But first assembling his Nobles and Counsellers, hée called her (for the more reproach) into open Court: where it was obiected against her, that shé had committed adultery with Egistus, & conspired with Franion to poyson Pandosto her husband. But their pretence being partly spied, the counselled them to flie away by night, for their better safety. Bellaria (who standing like a prisoner at the barre, and feeling in her selfe a cléare conscience to withstand her false accusers) séeing that no lesse then death could pacifie her husbands wrath, waxed bold, and desired that shé might haue Law

and Iustice (for mercy she neither craued nor hoped) and that those pertured wretches, which had falsly accused her to the King, might be brought before her face, to giue in euidence. Pandosto (whose rage and iealosie was such, as no reason, nor equitie could appeale) tolde her, that for her accusers, they were of such credite, as their wordes were sufficient witnesse, and that the sodaine and secret flight of Egistus and Fraunion, confirmed that which they had confessed: and as for her, it was her part to deny such a monstrous crime, and to be impudent in forswearing the fact, since she had passed all shame in committing the fault: but her faire countenance should stand for no coyne: for, as the bastard which she bare was serued, so she should with some cruell death be requited. Bellaria no whit dismaied with this rough supply, told her Husband Pandosto that he spake vpon choler, and not conscience: for her vertuous life had ever beene such, as no spot of suspition could euer staine. And if she had borne a friendly countenance to Egistus, it was in respect he was his friend, and not for any lusting affection: therefore if she were condemned without any further proofe, it was rigour, and not Law. The Noble men which sate in Iudgement, said that Bellaria spake reason, and intreated the King that the accusers might be openly examined, and sworne: if then the euidence were such, as the Iury might finde her guilty (for saying she was a Prince she ought to be tryed by her Peeres) then let her haue such punishment as the extremity of the Law will assigne to such malefactors. The King presently made answere that in this case he might, and would dispence with the Law: and that the Iury being once panelled, they should take his word for sufficient euidence, otherwise he would make the proudest of them repent it. The Noble men seeing the King in choler, were all whist: but Bellaria whose life then hung in the ballance, fearing more perpetuall infamie, then momentanie death, tolde the King, if his fury might stand for a Law, that it were vaine to haue the Iury yeld their verdict: and therfore she fell downe vpon her knees, and desired the King that for the loue he bare to his young Sonne Garinter, whome she brought into the world, that he would graunt her a requeste, the which was this, that it would please his Maiestie to send for

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his Noble men whom he beſt truſted, to the Iſle of Delphos, there to enquire of the Oracle of Apollo, whether ſhe had committed adultery with Egiſtus, or conſpired to poyſon him, with Franion; and if the God Apollo, who by his diuine eſſence knew all ſecrets, gaue anſwere that ſhe was guiltie, ſhe was content to ſuffer any torment, were it neuer ſo terrible. The requeſt was ſo reaſonable, that Pandoſto could not for ſhame denie it, vnleſſe he would be counted of all his Subiects more wilfull then wiſe. Vpon therefore agreed that with as much ſpeed as might be there ſhould be certaine Embaſſadours diſpatched to the Iſle of Delphos: and in the meane ſeaſon he commanded that his wife ſhould be kept in cloſe priſon. Bellaria hauing obtained this grant, was now more carefull for her little babe that floated on the Seas, then ſorrowfull for her owne miſhap. For of that ſhe doubted: of her ſelfe ſhe was aſſured: knowing if Apollo ſhould giue Oracle according to the thoughts of her heart, yet the ſentence ſhould goe on her ſide, ſuch was the clearneſſe of her minde in this caſe. But Pandoſto (whoſe ſuſpitious head ſtill remained in one ſong) choſe out ſixe of his Nobility, whome hee knew were ſcarce indifferent men in the Queenes behalfe, and prouiding all things fit for their iourney ſent them to Delphos. They willing to fulfill the Kings command, and deſirous to ſée the ſcituation and cuſtome of the Iland, diſpatched their affaires with as much ſpeed as might bée, and embarked themſelues to the voyage: which (the winde and weather ſeruing fit for their purpoſe) was ſone ended. For within three weekes they arriued at Delphos: where they were no ſooner ſet on Land, but with great deuotion they went to the Temple of Apollo, and there offering ſacrifice to the God, and giftes to the Prieſt, as the cuſtome was, they humbly craued an anſwere of their demaund. They had not long kneeled at the Altar, but Apollo with a loud voyce ſaid: Bohemians, what ye finde behinde the Altar, take and depart. They forthwith obeying the Oracle, found a ſcrowle of parchment wherein was written theſe words in letters of gold.

The Oracle.

Suſpition is no proofe: Iealouſie is an vnequall Iudge:
Bellaria is chaſte: *Egiſtus* blameleſſe: *Franion* a true

sible. Pandosto treacherously his babe an innocent, and the King shall die without an heire: if that which is lost be not found.

All done as they had taken out this scrowle, the Priest of the God commanded them, that they should not presume to reade it, before they came to the presence of Pandosto, vnlesse they would incurre the displeasure of Apollo. The Bohemian Lords carefully obeying his commaund, taking their leaue of the Priest, with great reuerence departed out of the Temple, and went to their Ships: and allone as winde would permit them, sayled towards Bohemia, where in short time they safely arriued, and with great triumph issuing out of their shippes went to the Kings Pallace, whome they found in his chamber accompanied with other Noble men. Pandosto no sooner saw them, but with a merrie countenance he welcomed them home, asking what newes? They tolde his Maiestie, that they had receiued answere of the God written in a scrowle: but with this charge, that they should not reade the contents before they came in the presence of the King: and with that they deliuered him the parchment. But his Noble men entreated him, that with therein were contained either the safety of his wiues life and honestie, or her death and perpetuall infamy, that he would haue his Nobles and Commons assembled in the iudgement Hall: where the Queen brought in as a prisoner, should heare the contents. If she were found guiltie by the Oracle of the God, then all should haue cause to thinke his rigour prouoked of due desert: if her Grace were found faultlesse, then she should be cleered before all, sith she had beene accused openly. This pleased the King so, that he appointed the day, and assembled all the Lords and Commons, and caused the Queene to be brought in before the iudgement seate, commanding that the inditement should be read: wherein she was accused of aduultery with Egistus, and of conspiracy with Franion. Bellaria hearing the contents, was no whit astonished, but made this cheerefull answer.

If the diuine powers be priuie to humane actions (as no doubt they are) I hope my patience shall make fortune blush,

and my vnſpotted life ſhall ſtaine ſpitefull diſcredite. For although lying report hath ſought to appeach mine honour, and ſuſpition hath intended to ſoyle credit with infamy: yet where vertue keepeth the fort, report and ſuſpition may aſſaile, but neuer ſacke. How I haue led my life before Egiſtus comming, I appeale (Pandoſto) to the Gods, and to thy conſcience: what hath paſſed betweene him and mée, the Gods onely know, and I hope will preſently reueale. That I loued Egiſtus, I cannot denie: that I honoured him, I ſhame not to confeſſe. To the one I was forced by his vertues: to the other for his dignities. But as touching laſcinious luſt, I ſay Egiſtus is honeſt, and hope my ſelfe to be found without ſpot: for Franion, I can neither accuſe him, nor excuſe him: I was not priuie to his departure: and that this is true, which I haue here rehearſed, I referre my ſelfe vnto the diuine Oracle.

BEllaria had no ſooner ſaid, but the King commaunded that one of the Dukes ſhould reade the contents of the ſcrowle, which after the Commons had heard, they gaue a great ſhoute, reioycing and clapping their handes that the Queene was cleare of that falſe accuſation: but the King, whoſe conſcience was a witnes against him of his wilfull fury, and falſe ſuſpected Iealouſie, was ſo aſhamed of his raſh folly, that hée intreated his Nobles to perſwade Bellaria to forgiue, and forget theſe iniuries, promiſing not onely to ſhew himſelfe a loyall and louing husband, but alſo to reconcile himſelfe to Egiſtus and Franion: reuealing then before them all the cauſe of their ſecret flight, and how treacherouſly he thought to haue practiſed his death if the good minde of his cup-bearer had not preuented his purpoſe. As thus he was relating the whole matter, there was worde brought him, that his young Sonne Garimer was ſodainly dead: which newes ſo ſoone as Bellaria heard, ſurcharged before with extreame ioy, and now ſuppreſſed with heauy ſorrow, her vitall ſpirits were ſtopped, that ſhée fell downe preſently dead, and could neuer be reuiued. This ſodaine ſight ſo appalled the Kings ſences, that he ſunke from his ſeate in a ſwoune, ſo as he was faine to be carryed by his Nobles to his Pallace, where he lay by the ſpace of thrée dayes without ſpéech. His

Commons were as men in diſpaire, ſo diuerſly diſtreſſed; there was nothing but mourning & lamentation to be heard throughout all Bohemia: their young Prince dead, their vertuous Queene bereaued of her life, and their King and Soueraigne in great hazard: this tragicall diſcourſe of Fortune ſo daunted them, as they went like ſhadowes, not men: yet ſomewhat to comfort their heauy hearts, they heard that Pandoſto was come to himſelfe, and had recouered his ſpéech: who as in fury brayed theſe bitter ſpéeches:

O Piſerable Pandoſto, what furer witneſſe then conſcience? What thoughts more ſowre then ſuſpition? What plague more bad then Iealouſie? Vnnatural actions offended the Gods more then men: and cauſeleſſe crueltie neuer ſcapes without reuenge. I haue committed ſuch a bloody fact, as repent I may: but recall I cannot. Ah Iealouſie, a hell to the minde, and a horror to the conſcience, ſuppreſſing reaſon, and melting rage: a worſe paſſion then frenzy, a greater plague then madneſſe. Are the Gods iuſt? Then let them reuenge ſuch brutiſh cruelty: my innocent Babe I haue drowned in the Seas: my louing Wife I haue ſlaine with ſlanderous ſuſpition: my truſtie friend, I haue ſought to betray, and yet the Gods are ſlacke to plague ſuch offences. Ah vniuſt Apollo, Pandoſto is the man that hath committed the fault; why ſhould Gariner, ſilly childe, abide the paine? Wel ſith the Gods meane to prolong my daies to increaſe my dolour, I will offer my guilty bloud a ſacrifice to thoſe guiltleſſe ſoules, whoſe liues are loſt by rigorous folly. And with that he reached at a Rapier to haue murdered himſelfe: but his Péeres being preſent, ſtayed him from ſuch a bloody act: perſwading him to thinke, that the Commonwealth conſiſted on his ſafety, and that thoſe ſhéepe could not but periſh, that wanted a ſhepheard: wiſhing, that if he would not liue for himſelfe, yet he ſhould haue care of his Subiects, and to put ſuch fancies out of his minde: ſith in ſores paſt helpe, ſalues doe not heale, but hurt: and in things paſt cure, care is a corſiue. With theſe and ſuch like perſwaſions the King was ouercome, and began ſomewhat to quiet his minde: ſo that ſo ſoone as he could go abroad: he cauſed his wife to be embalmed,

and wrapt in leade, with her young ſonne Garinter: erecting a rich and famous Sepulchre, wherein he intombed them both, making ſuch ſolemne obſequies at her Funerall, as all Bohemia might perceiue he did greatly repent him of his forepaſſed folly: cauſing this Epitaph to be ingrauen on her Tombe, in letters of gold.

The Epitaph.

Here lyes entombde Bellaria *faire,*
Falſly accuſed to be vnchaſt:
Cleer'd by Apollos *ſacred doome,*
Yet ſlaine by Iealouſie at laſt.

What ere thou bee that paſſeſt by,
Curſe him that cauſde this Queene to dye.

THis Epitaph being engrauen, Pandoſto would once a day repaire to the Tombe, and there with watry plaints bewaile his miſfortune: coueting no other companion but ſorrow, nor no other harmonie, but repentance. But leauing him to his dolorous paſſions, at laſt let vs come to ſhew the tragicall diſcourſe of the young Infant.

WHo being toſſed with winde, and waues, floated two whole dayes without ſuccour, ready at euery puffe to be drowned in the Sea: till at laſt the tempeſt ceaſed, and the little Boate was driuen with the tide into the coaſt of Sycilia: where ſticking vpon the Sands, it reſted. Fortune minding to be wanton (willing to ſhew that as ſhe hath wrinckles on her browes, ſo ſhe hath dimples in her cheekes) thought after ſo many ſowre lookes, to lend a fained ſmile: and after a puffing ſtorme, to bring a pretty calme: ſhe began thus to daliy. It fortuned a poore mercenary Shepheard, that dwelled in Sycilia, who got his liuing by other mens flockes, miſſed one of his theepe, and thinking it had ſtrayed into the court that was hard by, ſought very diligently to finde that which he could not ſee, fearing either that the Wolues or Eagles had vndone him (for

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he was ſo poore, as a ſheepe was halfe his ſubſtance) wandered downe towards the ſea cliffes, to ſée if perchance the ſheepe was browzing on the Sea Ivie, whereon they doe greatly féed. But not finding her there, as he was ready to returne to his flocke, he heard a Childe cry: but knowing there was no houſe nére, thought he had miſtaken the ſound, and that it was the bleating of his ſheepe. Wherefore looking more narrowly, as he caſt his eye to the Sea, he ſpied a little Boate: from whence (as he attentiuely liſtened) hée might heare a cry to come. Standing a good while in a maze, at laſt he went to the ſhore, and wading to the Boate, as he looked in, hée ſaw a little Babe lying all alone, ready to die for hunger and colde, wrapped in a Mantle of Scarlet, richly embrothered with gold, and hauing a Chaine about the necke. The Shepheard, who before had neuer ſéene ſo faire a babe, nor ſo rich Iewels, thought aſſuredly, that it was ſome little God, and began with great deuotion to knock on his breſt. The Babe, who writhed with the head to ſéeke for the pappe, began againe to cry afreſh: whereby the poore man knew that it was a Childe, which by ſome ſiniſter meanes was driuen thither by diſtreſſe of weather: marualling how ſuch a ſilly Infant, which by the Mantle, and the Chaine, could not but be borne of Noble parentage, ſhould hée ſo hardly croſſed with deadly miſhap. The poore Shepheard, perplexed thus with diuers thoughts, tooke pitty of the Childe, and determined with himſelfe to carry it to the King, that there it might be brought vp, according to the worthines of birth: for his abilitie could not affoorde to foſter it, though his minde was willing to further it. Taking therefore the Childe in his armes, as hée folded the Mantle together, the better to defend it from the cold, there fell downe at his foot a very faire and rich purſe, wherein he found a great ſumme of gold: which ſight ſo reuiued the ſhepheards ſpirits, as he was greatly rauiſhed with ioy, and daunted with feare: ioyfull, to ſée ſuch a ſumme in his power: fearefull, if it ſhould be knowne, that it might breede his further danger. Neceſſity willed him at the leaſt, to retaine the gold, though he would not keepe the Childe: the ſimplicity of his conſcience feared him from ſuch deceitfull bribery. Thus was the poore man perplexed with a doubtfull Dilemma, vntill at laſt the couetouſneſſe of the coyne ouercame

him: for what will not the grædie deſire of gold cauſe a man to doe? So to that he was reſolued in himſelfe to forſeit the child, & with the ſumme to relæue his want. Reſting thus reſolute in this point, he left taking his ſhéepe, and as couertly and ſecretly as he could, went a by way to his houſe, leaſt any of his neighbours ſhould perceiue his carriage. Alſone as hee was got home, entering in at the doore, the child began to crie. Which his wife hearing, and ſéeing her huſband with a young babe in his armes, began to be ſomewhat iealous: yet marueiling that her huſband ſhould be ſo wanton abroad, ſith he was ſo quiet at home. But as women are naturally giuen to beléeue the worſt, ſo his wife thinking it was ſome baſtard, began to crow againſt her good man: and taking vp a cudgell (for the moſt maſter went bræchles) ſware ſolemnly that ſhe would make clubs trumpe, if he brought any baſtard brat within her doores. The goodman ſéeing his wife in her maieſtie, with her Mace in her hand, thought it was time to bow for feare of blowes, and deſired her to be quiet, for there was no ſuch matter: but if ſhe could hold her peace, they were made for euer. And with that he told her the whole matter: how he had found the childe in a little Boate without any ſuccour, wrapped in that coſtly Mantle, and hauing that rich chaine about the necke: but at laſt when he ſhewed her the purſe full of gold, ſhe began to ſimper ſomething ſweetly. And taking her husband about the necke, kiſſed him after her homely faſhion: ſaying, that ſhe hoped, God had ſéene their want, and now meant to relæue their pouerty, and ſéeing they could get no children, had ſent them this little Babe to be their heyre. Take héede in any caſe (ſaith the ſhepheard) that you be ſecret, and blabbe it not out when you méete with your Goſſips. For if you doe, we are like not onely to loſe the gold and Iewels, but our other goods and liues. Tuſh (quoth his wife) profit is a good Hatch before the doore: Feare not, I haue other things to talke of, then this: but I pray you let vs lay vp the money ſurely, and the Iewels, leaſt by any miſhap it be eſpied. After that they had ſet all things in order, the Shepheard went to his ſhéep with a merry note, and the good wife learned to ſing Lullaby at home with her young babe, wrapping it in a homely blanket, inſtéede of a rich mantle,

nouriſhing it ſo cleanly and carefully, as it began to bee a iolly Girle: inſomuch that they began both of them to be very fond of it, and as it waxed in age, ſo it increaſed in beautie. The ſhepheard euery night at his comming home, would ſing and dance it on his knee, and prattle, that in ſhort time it began to ſpeake and call him Dad, and her Mam. At laſt, when it grew to ripe yeares, that it was about ſeuen yeares olde, the Shepheard left keeping of other mens ſheepe, and with the money he found in the purſe, he bought him the leaſe of a pretty Farme, and got a ſmall flocke of ſheepe: which when Fawnia (for ſo they named the child) came to the age of ten yeares, he ſet her to keepe ſheepe: and ſhe with ſuch diligence performed her charge, as the ſheepe proſpered marueilouſly vnder her hand. Fawnia thought Porrus had bene her Father, and Mopſa her Mother (for ſo was the ſhepheard and his wife called) and honoured and obeyed them with ſuch reuerence, that all the neighbours praiſed the dutifull obedience of the Childe. Porrus grew in ſhort time to be a man of ſome wealth and credite. For Fortune ſo fauoured him in hauing no charge but Fawnia, that he began to purchaſe Land, intending after his death to giue it to his Daughter: ſo that diuers rich Farmers Sonnes came as wooers to his houſe. For Fawnia was ſomething cleanly attyred, being of ſuch ſingular beauty and excellent wit, that who ſo ſaw her, would haue thought ſhe had beene ſome heauenly Nimph, and not a mortall creature. Inſomuch that when ſhe came to the age of ſixteene yeares, ſhee ſo increaſed with exquiſite perfection both of bodie and minde, as her naturall diſpoſition did bewray that ſhe was borne of ſome high parentage. But the people thinking ſhe was the daughter to the Shepheard Porrus, reſted onely amazed at her beauty and wit. Yea ſhe won ſuch fauour and commendations in euery mans eye, as her beauty was not onely praiſed in the Countrey, but alſo ſpoken of in the Court. Yet ſuch was her ſubmiſſe modeſtie, that although her praiſe daily increaſed, her minde was no whit puffed vp with pride, but humbled her ſelfe as became a country maide, and the daughter of a poore ſhepheard. Euery day ſhe went forth with her ſheep to the field, keeping them with ſuch care and diligence, as all men thought ſhe was very pain-

full, defending her face from the heate of the Sun with no other vaile, but with a Garland made of Bowes & Flowers. Which attyre became her ſo gallantly, as ſhe ſeemed to be the Goddeſſe Flora her ſelfe for beauty. Fortune, who all this while had ſhewed a friendly face, began now to turne her backe, and to ſhew a lowring countenance: intending as ſhee had giuen Fawnia a ſlender checke, ſo ſhe would giue her a harder mate. To bring which to paſſe, ſhee laid her traine on this wiſe: Egiſtus had but one onely Sonne called Doraſtus, about the age of twentie yeares: a Prince ſo decked & adorned with the gifts of nature, ſo fraught with beautie and vertuous qualities, as not onely his Father ioyed to haue ſo good a ſonne, but his commons reioyced that God had ſent them ſo noble a Prince to ſucceede in the Kingdome. Egiſtus, placing all his ioy in the perfection of his Sonne, (ſeeing that he was now maryageable) ſent Embaſſadours to the King of Denmarke, to intreat a marriage betweene him and his Daughter. Who willingly conſenting, made anſwere, that the next ſpring, if it pleaſed Egiſtus with his ſonne to come into Denmarke, he doubted not, but they ſhould agree vpon reaſonable conditions. Egiſtus reſting ſatisfied with this friendly anſwere, thought conuenient in the meane time to breake it vnto his Sonne. Finding therefore on a day fit opportunity, he ſpake to him in theſe fatherly termes.

DOraſtus, thy youth warneth mée to preuent the worſt, and mine age to prouide the beſt. Opportunities neglected are ſignes of folly: actions meaſured by time, are ſeldome bitten with repentance: thou art young, and I olde: age hath taught me that, which thy youth cannot conceiue.

I therefore will counſell thée as a Father, hoping thou wilt obey as a Childe. Thou ſeeſt my white haires are bloſſomes for the graue: and thy freſh colours, fruite for time and Fortune; ſo that it behoueth mée to thinke how to die, and for thée, to care how to liue. My Crowne I muſt leaue by death, and thou enioy my Kingdome by ſucceſſion. Wherein I hope thy vertue and proweſſe ſhall be ſuch, as though my Subiects want my perſon, yet they ſhall ſée in thée my perfection. That

nothing eyther may ſuple to ſatiſfie thy minde, or encreaſe thy dignities: the onely care I haue, is to ſée thée well married before I die, and thou become old.

Doraſtus (who from his infancy, delighted rather to die with Mars in the field, then to dally with Venus in the Chamber) fearing to diſpleaſe his Father, and yet not willing to be wed, made him this reuerent anſwere.

SIR, there is no greater bond then dutie, nor no ſtricter Law then nature: diſobedience in youth, is often galled with deſpighte in age. The commaund of the Father ought to be a conſtraint to the childe: ſo, Parents wils are lawes, ſo they paſſe not all lawes. May it pleaſe your Grace therefore, to appoint whom I ſhall loue: Rather then by denial I ſhould be appeached of diſobedience, I reſt content to loue: though it be the onely thing I hate.

Egiſtus hearing his Sonne to ſlie farre from the marke, began to be ſomewhat cholericke, and therefore made him this haſtie anſwere.

WHat Doraſtus, canſt thou not loue? Commeth this cynicall paſſion of proud deſires, or peeuiſh frowardneſſe? What, doſt thou thinke thy ſelfe too good for all, or none good enough for thée? I tell thée Doraſtus, there is nothing ſwifter then youth: nor ſwifter decreaſing, while it is increaſing. Time paſt with folly may be repented, but not recalled. If thou marry in age, thy wiues freſh colours will bréede in thée dead thoughts and ſuſpition, and thy white hayres her loathſomeneſſe and ſorrow. For Venus affections are not fed with Kingdomes, or Treaſures; but with youthfull conceites, and ſweet amours. Vulcan was allotted to ſhake the tree, but Mars allowed to reape the fruite. Yeelde Doraſtus to thy Fathers perſwaſions, which may preuent thy perils. I haue choſen thee a wife, faire by nature, royall by birth, by vertues famous, learned by education, and rich by poſſeſſions: ſo that it is hard to iudge whether her bounty, or Fortune; her beauty, or vertue, be of greater force: I meane (Doraſtus) Euphania, daughter and heyre to the King of Denmarke.

EGiſtus pauſing here a while, loking when his Sonne ſhould make him anſwere: and ſeeing that he ſtod ſtill, as one in a trance, he ſhoke him vp thus ſharpely.

WEll Doraſtus take héde, the Tré Alpya waſteth not with fire, but withereth with deiw: that which loue nouriſheth not, periſheth with hate. If thou like Euphania thou bréedeſt my content, and in louing her thou ſhalt haue my loue: otherwiſe, and with that he flung from his Sonne in a rage, leauing him a ſorrowfull man, in that he had by deniall diſpleaſed his Father; and halfe angry with himſelfe, that he could not yéld to that paſſion, whereto both reaſon and his Father perſwaded him. But ſée how Fortune is plumed with ſtraw Feathers, and how ſhe can miniſter ſtrange cauſes to bréd ſtrange effects.

It happened not long after this, that there was a méeting of all the Farmers daughters in Sycilia, whither Fawnia was alſo bidden as the Miſtreſſe of the Feaſt: who hauing attired herſelfe in her beſt garments, went amongſt the reſt of her companions to that merry méeting: there ſpending the day in ſuch homely paſtime as ſhepheards vſe. As the euening grew on and their ſports ceaſed, each taking their leaue of other, Fawnia deſiring one of her companions to beare her company, went home by the flocke, to ſée if they were well folded. And as they returned, it fortuned that Doraſtus (who all that day had béene hawking and killed ſtore of game) incountred by the way theſe two Maids: and caſting his eye ſuddenly on Fawnia, he was halfe afraid, fearing that with Acteon he had ſéene Diana: for he thought ſuch exquiſite perfection could not be found in any mortall creature. As thus he ſtod in a maze, one of his Pages told him, that the Maide with the garland on her head, was Fawnia the faireſt ſhepheard, whoſe beauty was ſo much talked of in the Court. Doraſtus, deſirous to ſée if nature had adorned her minde with any inward qualities, as ſhe had decked her body with outward ſhape, began to queſtion with her whoſe daughter ſhe was, of what age, and how ſhe had bé.e trained vp: who anſwered him with ſuch modeſt reuerence & ſharpnes of wit, that Doraſtus thought her outward beauty was but a

counterfeit to darken her inward qualities: wondering how ſo courtly behauiour could be found in ſo ſimple a Cottage; and curſing Fortune, that had ſhadowed wit and beauty with ſuch hard Fortune: And thus he held her a long time with chatte. Beauty ſeeing him at diſcouert: thought not to looſe the vantage, but ſtroke him ſo cõpely with an inuenomed ſhaft, as he wholely loſt his liberty, and became a ſlaue to Loue, which before contemned Loue, glad now to gaze on a poore Shepheard, who before refuſed the offer of a rich Princeſſe. For the perfection of Fawnia had ſo fired his fancy, as he felt his minde greatly changed, and his affections altered; curſing Loue that had wrought ſuch a change, and blaming the baſeneſſe of his minde that would make ſuch a choyſe. But thinking theſe were but paſſionate toyes, that might be thruſt out at pleaſure: to auoyd the Syren that inchanted him, he put ſpurres to his horſe, and bad this faire Shepheard farewell.

Fawnia (who all this while had marked the Princely geſture of Doraſtus) ſeeing his face ſo well featured, and each limbe ſo perfectly framed, began greatly to praiſe his perfection, commending him ſo long, till ſhe found herſelfe faulty: and perceiued that if ſhe waded but a little further, ſhe might ſlip ouer the ſhoes. She therefore ſeeking to quench that fire which neuer was put out, went home, and faining her ſelfe not well at eaſe, got her to bed: where caſting a thouſand thoughts in her head, ſhe could take no reſt. For if ſhe had waked, ſhe began to call to minde his beauty: and thinking to beguile ſuch thoughts with ſléepe, ſhe then dreamed of his perfection. Peſtered with theſe vnacquainted paſſions, ſhe paſſed the night as ſhe could, in ſhort ſlumbers.

Doraſtus (who all this while reade with a flea in his eare) could not by any meanes forget the ſweet ſauour of Fawnia, but reſted ſo bewitched with her wit and beauty, as he could take no reſt. He felt fancy to giue the aſſault, and his wounded minde ready to yéeld as vanquiſhed: yet he began with diuers conſiderations to ſuppreſſe his frantike affection, calling to minde, that Fawnia was a Shepheard: one not worthy to be loked at of a Prince; much leſſe to be loued of ſuch a Potentate: thinking what a diſcredite it were to himſelfe, and what a

griefe it would be to his Father: blaming fortune, and accuſing his owne folly, that ſhould be ſo fond, as but once to caſt a glance at ſuch a countrey ſlut. And as thus he was raging againſt himſelfe, Loue (fearing, if ſhe dallyed long, to loſe her Champion) ſtept more nigh, and gaue him ſuch a freſh wound, as it pierſt him at the heart, that he was faine to yéld mauger his face, and to forſake the company, and get him to his Chamber, where being ſolemnly ſet, he burſt into theſe paſſionate termes.

Ay Doraſtus art thou alone? No not alone, while thou art tyed with theſe vnacquainted paſſions. Yéld to fancie thou canſt not by thy Fathers counſell: but in a frenzie thou art, by iuſt deſtinies. Thy Father were content, if thou couldeſt loue: and thou therefore diſcontent, becauſe thou doeſt loue. O diuine Loue, feared of men, becauſe honoured of the Gods: not to be ſuppreſſed by wiſdome, becauſe not to be comprehended by reaſon: without law, and therefore aboue law.

How now Doraſtus? why doeſt thou blaze that with praiſes which thou haſt cauſe to blaſpheme with curſes? Yet why ſhould they curſe loue, which are in loue?

Bluſh Doraſtus at thy Fortune, thy choyſe, thy loue: thy thoughts cannot be vttered without ſhame, nor thy affections without diſcredit. Ah Fawnia, ſweét Fawnia, thy beauty Fawnia.

Shameſt not thou Doraſtus, to name one vnfit for thy birth, thy dignities, thy Kingdomes? Die Doraſtus, Doraſtus die. Better haddeſt thou periſh with high deſires, then liue in baſe thoughts. Yea but beauty muſt be obeyed, becauſe it is beauty: yet framed of the Gods to féed the eye, not to fetter the heart.

Ah, but he that ſtriueth againſt Loue, ſhooteth with them of Scyrum againſt the winde, and with the Cockatrice pecketh againſt the ſtéele. I will therefore obey, becauſe I muſt obey. Fawnia, yea Fawnia ſhall be my Fortune, in ſpight of Fortune. The Gods aboue diſdaine not to loue women beneath. Phœbus liked Daphne; Iupiter, Io: and why not I then Fawnia? one ſomething inferiour to theſe in birth: but farre ſuperiour to them in beauty: borne to be a Shepheard, but worthy to be a Goddeſſe.

Ah Doraſtus, wilt thou ſo forget thy ſelfe as to ſuffer affection to ſuppreſſe wiſdome, and loue to violate thine honour? How ſowre will thy choiſe be to thy Father, ſorrowfull to thy Subiects, to thy friends a griefe, moſt gladſome to thy foes? Subdue then thy affection, and ceaſe to loue her whome thou couldeſt not loue, vnleſſe blinded with too much loue. Muſh, I talke to the winde, and in ſeeking to preuent the cauſes, I further the effects. I will yet praiſe Fawnia, honour, yea and loue Fawnia, and at this day follow content, not counſell. Doe Doraſtus, thou canſt not repent: and with that, his Page came into the chamber: whereupon he ceaſed from complaints, hoping that time would weare out that which Fortune had wrought. As thus he was pained, ſo poore Fawnia was diuerſly perplexed. For the next morning getting vp very early, ſhe went to her Sheepe, thinking with hard labours to paſſe away her new conceiued amours, beginning very buſily to driue them to the field, and then to ſhift the folds. At laſt (wearied with toyle) ſhe ſate her downe, where (poore ſoule) ſhe was more tyed with fond affections. For loue began to aſſault her: inſomuch, that as ſhe ſate vpon the ſide of a hill, ſhe began to accuſe her owne folly in theſe termes.

Infortunate Fawnia, and therefore infortunate becauſe Fawnia, thy ſhepheards hooke ſheweth thy poore eſtate, thy proud deſires an aſpiring mind: the one declareth thy want, the other thy pride. No baſtard Hawke muſt ſoare ſo high as the Hobby, no Fowle gaze againſt the Sunne, but the Eagle: actions wrought againſt nature, reape deſpight: and thoughts aboue Fortune, diſdaine.

Fawnia, thou art a ſhepheard, Daughter to poore Porrus: if thou reſt content with this, thou art like to ſtand: if thou climbe thou art like to fall. The hearbe Anita growing higher then ſixe inches, becommeth a weede. Nilus flowing more then twelue Cubits, procureth a dearth. Darting affections that paſſe meaſure, are cut ſhort by time or Fortune. Suppreſſe then Fawnia, thoſe thoughts which thou mayeſt ſhame to expreſſe. But ah Fawnia, loue is a Lord: who will commaund by power, and conſtraine by force.

Doraſtus, ah Doraſtus is the man I loue: the worſe is thy hap, and the leſſe cauſe haſt thou to hope. Will Eagles catch at Flies? will Cedars ſtoupe at Brambles? or mightie Princes looke at ſuch homely Trulls? No, no: thinke this Doraſtus, diſdaine is greater then thy deſire. He is a Prince, reſpecting his honour: thou a Beggars brat forgetting thy calling. Ceaſe then not onely to ſay, but to thinke to loue Doraſtus: and diſſemble thy loue Fawnia. For better it were to die with griefe, than to liue with ſhame. Yet in diſpight of Loue I will ſigh, to ſee if I can ſigh out loue. Fawnia, ſomewhat appeaſing her griefes with theſe pithy perſwaſions, began after her wonted manner to walke about her ſheepe, and to keepe them from ſtraying into the Corne: ſuppreſſing her affection with the due conſideration of her baſe eſtate, and with the impoſſibilities of her loue: thinking it were frenzie, (not fancie) to couet that which the very deſtinies deny her to obtaine.

But Doraſtus was more impatient in his paſſions. For Loue ſo fiercely aſſayled him, that neither company, nor Muſicke could mitigate his Martyrdome: but did rather farre the more increaſe his maladie. Shame would not let him craue counſell in this caſe: nor feare of his Fathers diſpleaſure, reueile it to any ſecret friend: but he was faine to make a Secretary of himſelfe, and to participate his thoughts with his owne troubled minde. Lingring thus a while in doubtfull ſuſpence, at laſt ſtealing ſecretly from the Court, without either men or Page, he went to ſee if he could eſpie Fawnia walking abroad in the field. But, as one hauing a great deale more skill to retriue the Partridge with his Spaniels, then to hunt after ſuch a ſtrange prey, he ſought, but was little the better. Which croſſe lucke driue him into a great choler, that he began both to accuſe Loue and Fortune. But as he was ready to retyre, he ſaw Fawnia ſitting all alone vnder the ſide of an hill, making a Garland of ſuch homely flowers as the fields did affoord. This ſight ſo reuiued his ſpirits, that he drew nigh, with more iudgement to make a view of her ſingular perfection: which he found to be ſuch, as in that Countrey attyre ſhe ſtayned all the Courtly Dames of Sycilia. While thus he ſtood gazing with piercing lookes on her ſurpaſſing Beauty,

Fawnia cast her eye aside, and espied Doraſtus. Which ſodaine ſight made the poore girle to bluſh, and to die her Chriſtall cheeks with the vermilion red: which gaue her ſuch a grace, as ſhe ſeemed farre more beautifull; and with that ſhe roſe vp, ſaluting the Prince with ſuch modeſt courteſies, as he wondered how a countrey maide could afford ſuch courtly behauiour. Doraſtus repaying her courteſie with a ſmiling countenance, began to parle with her on this manner.

FAire maide (quoth he) eyther your want is great, or a ſhepheards life very ſweete, that your delight is in ſuch countrey labours. I cannot conceiue what pleaſure you ſhould take, vnleſſe you meane to imitate the Nimphes, being your ſelfe ſo like a Nimph. To put me out of this doubt, ſhew me what is to be commended in a Shepheards life, and what pleaſures you haue to counteruaile theſe drudging labours. Fawnia, with bluſhing face, made him this anſwere.

SIr, what richer ſtate then content? or what ſweeter life then quiet? We ſhepheards are not borne to honor, nor beholding vnto beauty: the leſſe care we haue to feare fame or fortune. We count our attire braue enough, if warme enough: and our food dainty, if to ſuffice nature: our greateſt enemy is the wolfe our onely care, in ſafe keeping our flocke, in ſtead of courtly dities, we ſpend the daies with country ſongs: our amorous conceites are homely thoughts: delighting as much to talke of Pan and his country prankes, as Ladies to tell of Venus and her wanton toyes. Our toyle is in ſhifting the folds, and looking to the Lambes, eaſie labours: oft ſitting and telling tales; homely pleaſures: our greateſt wealth, not to couet, our honor, not to climbe: our quiet, not to care. Enuie loketh not ſo low as Shepheards: Shepheards gaze not ſo high as ambition: we are rich, in that we are poore with content: and proud onely in this, that we haue no cauſe to be proud.

THis wittie anſwere of Fawnia ſo inflamed Doraſtus fancy, as he commended himſelfe for making ſo good a choyce: thinking, if her birth were anſwerable to her wit and beautie

tie, that ſhe were a fit mate for the moſt famous Prince in the world. He therefore began to caſt her more narrowly on this manner.

FAwnia, I ſée thou art content with Countrie labours, becauſe thou knoweſt not Courtly pleaſures: I commend thy wit, and pittie thy want. But wilt thou leaue thy Fathers Cottage, and ſerue a Courtly miſtreſſe?

Sir (quoth ſhe) beggers ought not to ſtriue againſt Fortune, nor to gaze againſt honour; leaſt eyther their fall be greater, or they become blinde. I am borne to toyle for the Court, not in the Court: my nature vnfit for their nature: better liue in meane degrée, then liue in high diſdaine.

Well ſaid Fawnia (quoth Doraſtus) I geſſe at thy thoughts, thou art in loue with ſome Country Shepheard.

No ſir (quoth ſhe) ſhepheards cannot loue, that are ſo ſimple: and maids may not loue that are ſo young.

Nay therefore (quoth Doraſtus) maides muſt loue becauſe they are young: for Cupid is a Childe, and Venus though olde is painted with freſh colours.

I grant (ſaid ſhe) age may be painted with new ſhadowes, and youth may haue imperfect affections: but, what Art concealeth in one, ignorance reuealeth in the other. Doraſtus ſéeing Fawnia held him ſo hard, thought it was vaine ſo long to beate about the buſh: therefore he thought to haue giuen her a freſh charge: but he was ſo preuented by certaine of his men; who miſſing their Maſter, came poſting to ſéeke him, ſéeing that hee was gone forth all alone; yet before they drew ſo nigh, that they might heare their talke, he vſed theſe ſpéeches.

Why Fawnia, perhaps I loue thée, and then thou muſt néeds yéelde: for thou knoweſt I can commaund and conſtraine. Muſh ſir (quoth ſhée) but not to loue, for conſtrained loue is force, not loue: and know this ſir, mine honeſty is ſuch, as I had rather die, then be a Concubine euen vnto a King: and my birth is ſo baſe, as I am vnfit to be a wife vnto a poore Farmer. Why then (quoth ſhe) thou canſt not loue Doraſtus. Yes ſaid Fawnia, when Doraſtus becomes a Shepheard, and with that the preſence of his men broke off their parle, ſo that

he went with them to the Pallace, and left Fawnia ſitting ſtill on the hill ſide: who, ſeeing that the night drew on, ſhifted her foldes, and buſied her ſelfe about other worke, to drive away ſuch fond fancies as began to trouble her braine. But all this could not preuaile, for the beauty of Doraſtus had made ſuch a deepe impreſſion in her heart, as it could not be worne out without cracking: ſo that ſhe was faine to blame her owne folly, in this wiſe.

Ah Fawnia, why doeſt thou gaze againſt the Sunne, or catch at the winde? Starres are to be looked at with the eye, not reached at with the hand: thoughts are to be meaſured by Fortunes, not by deſires; falles come not by ſitting low, but by climbing too high. What then, ſhall all feare to fall, becauſe ſome hap to fall? No, lucke commeth by lot, and Fortune windeth thoſe threeds which the deſtinies ſpin. Thou art fauoured Fawnia of a Prince, and yet thou art ſo fond to reiect deſired fauours: thou haſt deniall at thy tongues end, and deſire at thy hearts bottome: a womans fault, to ſpurne at that with her foote, which ſhe greedily catcheth at with her hand: thou loueſt Doraſtus, Fawnia; and yet ſaineſt to lowre. Take heede, if he retire, thou wilt repent, for vnleſſe he loue, thou canſt but die. Die then Fawnia: for Doraſtus doth but ieſt. The Lyon neuer preyeth on the Mouſe: nor doe Faulcons ſtoope to dead ſtales. Sit downe then in this ſorrow: ceaſe to loue, and content thy ſelfe, that Doraſtus will vouchſafe to flatter Fawnia, though not to fancie Fawnia. Heigh-hoe: Ah foole, it were ſeemlier for thee to whiſtle as a Shepheard, then to ſigh as a Louer; and with that ſhe ceaſed from theſe perplexed paſſions: folding her ſheepe, and hying home to her poore Cottage. But ſuch was the vnconſtant ſorrow of Doraſtus, to thinke on the wit and beauty of Fawnia: and to ſee how fond he was, being a Prince: and how froward ſhe was, being a Begger: that he began to loſe his wonted Appetite, to looke pale and wan: in ſtead of mirth, to feed on melancholy: for Courtly daunces, to vſe colde prompes. Inſomuch, that not onely his owne men, but his Father, and all the Court began to maruaile at his ſodaine change, thinking that ſome lingring ſickneſſe had brought

him

him into this ſtate. Wherefore he cauſed Phiſitions to come. But Doraſtus neither would let them miniſter, nor ſo much as ſuffer them to ſee his vrine: but remained ſtill ſo oppreſſed with theſe paſſions, as he feared in himſelfe a further inconvenience. His honour wiſhed him to ceaſe from ſuch folly: but loue forced him to follow fancie: yea, and in deſpight of honour Loue wonne the conqueſt, ſo that his hot deſires cauſed him to finde new deuices. For he preſently made himſelfe a Shepheards coate, that he might goe vnknowne, and with leſſe ſuſpition to prattle with Fawnia: and conueyed it ſecretly into a thicke groue hard adioyning to the Pallace: whither, finding fit time and opportunity, he went all alone, and putting off his Princely apparell, got on thoſe Shepheards robes: and taking a great hooke in his hand (which he alſo had gotten) he went very auncientlie to finde out the miſtreſſe of his affection. But as he went by the way, ſeeing himſelfe clad in ſuch vnſeemely ragges, he began to ſmile at his owne folly, and to reproue his fondneſſe in theſe termes.

VVEll ſaid Doraſtus, thou keepeſt a good decorum: baſe deſires and homely attires: thy thoughts are fit for none but a Shepheard, and thy apparell ſuch as onely becomes a Shepheard. A ſtrange change: from a Prince to a Peaſant, What, is it thy wretched Fortune, or thy wilfull folly? Is it thy curſed deſtinies, or thy crooked deſires, that appointeth thee this pennance? Ah Doraſtus thou canſt but loue, and vnleſſe thou loue thou art like to periſh for loue. Yet, fond ſoole chooſe flowers, not weeds: Diamonds, not Peables: Ladyes, which may honour thee: not Shepheards which may diſgrace thee. Venus is painted in ſilkes, not in ragges: and Cupid treadeth on diſdaine, when ſhe reacheth at dignitie. And yet Doraſtus, ſhame not at thy Shepheards weede: the heauenly Gods haue ſometime earthly thoughts: Neptune became a Ramme, Iupiter a Bull, Apollo a Shepheard, they Gods, and yet in loue: and then a man appointed to loue.

Diuiſing thus with himſelfe, he drew nigh to the place where Fawnia was keeping her ſheepe: who caſting her eye aſide, and ſeeing ſuch a mannerly Shepheard, perfectly limbed,

and conuning with ſo good a pace, ſhe began halfe to forget Doraſtus, & to fauour this pretty ſhepheard, whom ſhe thought ſhe might both loue and obtaine. But as ſhe was in theſe thoughts, ſhe perceiued then, it was the young Prince Doraſtus: wherefore ſhe roſe vp, and reuerently ſaluted him. Doraſtus taking her by the hand, repaied her courteſie with a ſweet kiſſe, & praying her to ſit downe by him, he began thus to lay the battery.

IF thou maruaile Fawnia at my ſtrange attire, thou wouldeſt more muſe at mine vnaccuſtomed thoughts: the one diſgraceth but my outward ſhape, the other diſturbeth my inward ſenſes: I loue Fawnia, and therefore what Loue liketh, I cannot miſlike. Fawnia thou haſt promiſed to loue, and I hope thou wilt performe no leſſe: I haue fulfilled thy requeſt, and now thou canſt not but grant my deſire. Thou wert content to loue Doraſtus when he ceaſt to be a Prince, and became a ſhepheard: and ſee, I haue made a change, and therefore not to miſſe of my choice.

TRuth, quoth Fawnia: but all that weare Coules are not Monkes. Painted Eagles are pictures; not Eagles: Zeuxis Grapes were like Grapes, yet ſhadowes: rich cloathing make not Princes; nor homely attire beggers: Shepheards are not called ſhepheards, becauſe they weare hookes and bagges, but they are borne poore, and liue to keepe ſheepe. ſo this attire hath not made Doraſtus a ſhepheard but to ſeeme like a ſhepheard.

WEll Fawnia, anſwered Doraſtus, were I a ſhepheard, I could not but like thee; being a Prince I am forſt to loue thee: Take heede Fawnia, be not proud of Beauties painting: for it is a flower that fadeth in the bloſſome. Thoſe which diſdaine in youth, are deſpiſed in age. Beauties ſhadowes are trickt vp with times colours: Which being ſet to drie in the Sunne are ſtained with the Sunne, ſcarce pleaſing the ſight, yet they begin not to be worth the ſight not much vnlike the herbe Ephimeron, which flouriſheth in the morning, and is withered before the Sunne ſetting. If my deſire were

againſt

againſt law, thou mightest iuſtly denie me by reaſon: but I loue thée Fawnia: not to miſuſe thée as a Concubine, but to vſe thée as my wife; I can promiſe no more, and meane to performe no leſſe.

Fawnia hearing this ſolemne protestation of Doraſtus, could no longer withſtand the aſſault, but yéelded vp the Fort, in theſe friendly termes.

AH Doraſtus, I ſhame to expreſſe that thou forcest me with thy ſugred ſpéech to confeſſe: my baſe birth cauſeth the one, and thy high dignities the other. Beggers thoughts ought not to reach ſo farre as Kings, and yet my deſires reach as high as Princes. I dare not ſay Doraſtus I loue thée, becauſe I am a Shepheard: but the Gods know I haue honoured Doraſtus, (pardon if I ſay amiſſe) yea and loued Doraſtus with ſuch dutifull affection, as Fawnia can performe, or Doraſtus deſire: I yéeld not, ouercome with prayers, but with Loue: reſting Doraſtus hand-maid, ready to obey his will, if no preiudice at all to his honour, nor my credite.

DOraſtus hearing this friendly concluſion of Fawnia embraced her in his armes, ſwearing that neither diſtance, time, nor aduerſe Fortune ſhould diminiſh his affection: but that in deſpight of the deſtinies he would remaine ioyfull vnto death. Hauing thus plight their troth each to other, ſeeing they could not haue the full fruition of their loue in Sycilia, for that Egiſtus content would neuer be granted to ſo meane a match, Doraſtus determined aſſone as time and opportunitie would giue him leaue, to prouide a great maſſe of money, and many rich and coſtly Iewels, for the eaſier carriage: and then to tranſport themſelues and their Treaſure into Italy, where they ſhould leade a contented life, vntill ſuch time as either he could be reconciled to his Father, or elſe by ſucceſſion come to the Kingdome. This deuice was greatly praiſed of Fawnia: for ſhe feared if the King his father ſhould but heare of the contract, that his fury would be ſuch, as no leſſe then death ſhould ſtand for payment. She therefore tolde him, that delay bred danger: that many miſhaps did fall out betwéene the

cup and lip: and that to auoide anger, it were beſt with as much ſpeed as might be, to paſſe out of Sycilia, leaſt Fortune might preuent their patience with ſome new deſpight. Doraſtus, whom loue pricked forward with deſire, promiſed to diſpatch his affaires with as great haſt, as eyther time or opportunity would giue him leaue: and ſo reſting vpon this point, after many embracings and ſweete kiſſes, they departed, Doraſtus, hauing taken his leaue of his beſt beloued Fawnia, went to the groue where he had his rich apparrell, and there vncaſing himſelfe as ſecretly as might be, hiding vp his Shepheards attire, till occaſion ſhould ſerue againe to vſe it: hee went to the Pallace, ſhewing by his merry countenance, that eyther the ſtate of his body was amended or the cauſe of his mind greatly redreſſed. Fawnia poore ſoule was noe leſſe ioyfull, that being a Shepheard, Fortune had fauoured her ſo, as to reward her with the loue of a Prince: hoping in time to be aduaunced from the daughter of a poore Farmer, to be a wife to a rich King. So that ſhe thought euery houre a yeare, till by their departure they might preuent danger: not ceaſing ſtill to goe euery day to her ſheepe: not ſo much for the care of the flocke, as for the deſire ſhe had to ſee her loue and Lord Doraſtus: who oftentimes when opportunity would ſerue, repaired thither to feed his fancy with his ſweete content of Fawniaes preſence. And although he neuer went to viſit her, but in theſe Shepheards ragges, yet his oft repaire made him not onely ſuſpected, but knowne to diuers of their neighbours: who for the good will they bare to old Porrus, told him ſecretly of the matter, wiſhing him to keepe his daughter at home, leaſt ſhe went ſo oft to the field, that ſhe brought him home a young ſonne. For they feared that Fawnia being ſo beautifull, the young Prince would allure her to folly. Porrus was ſtricken into a dumpe at theſe newes, ſo that thanking his neighbours for their good will, hee bid him home to his wife: and calling her aſide, wringing his hands, and ſhedding forth teares, he brake the matter to her in theſe termes.

I Am afraid wife, that my daughter Fawnia hath made herſelfe ſo fine, that ſhe will buy repentance to deare. I heare

newes, which if they be true, ſome will with they had not proued true. It is told me by my neighbours, that Doraſtus the Kings ſonne begins to loke at our daughter Fawnia: which if it be ſo, I will not giue her a halfe-penny for her honeſty, at the yeares end. I tell thee wife, now a dayes beauty is a great ſtale to trap young men, and faire wordes and ſweete promiſes are two great enemies to Maidens honeſty: and thou knoweſt, where power men intreate and cannot obtaine, there Princes may command, and will obtaine. Though Kings Dames dance in nets, they may not be ſene: yet power mens faults are eſpyed at a little hole. Well, it is a hard caſe where Kings luſts are lawes, and that they ſhould binde power men to that which they themſelues wilfully breake.

Peace Husband (quoth his wife) take heede what you ſay: ſpeake no more then you ſhould, leaſt you heare what you would not. Great ſtreames are to be ſtopped by ſleight, not by force: and Princes to be perſwaded by ſubmiſſion, not by rigour: doe what you can, but no more then you may; leaſt in ſauing Fawniaes mayden-head, you loſe your owne head. Take heede I ſay, it is ill ieaſting with edged toles, and bad ſporting with Kings. The Wolfe had his skin pulled ouer his eares, for but loking into the Lyons Den. Tuſh wife (quoth he) thou ſpeakeſt like a fole: If the King ſhould know that Doraſtus had gotten our daughter with childe (as I feare it will fall out little better) the Kings fury would be ſuch, as no doubt we ſhould both loſe our goods and liues: neceſſity therefore hath no Law, and I will preuent this miſchiefe with a new deuice that is come into my head, which ſhall neither offend the King, nor diſpleaſe Doraſtus. I meane to take the Chaine and the Jewels that I found with Fawnia, and carry them to the King, letting him then to vnderſtand, how ſhe is none of my daughter, but that I found her beaten vp with the water alone in a little Boate, wrapped in a rich Mantle, wherein was incloſed this Treaſure. By this meanes I hope the King will take Fawnia into his ſeruice, and we whatſoeuer chanceth, ſhall be blameleſſe. This deuice pleaſed the good wife very well, ſo that they determined aſſone as they might know the King at leyſure, to make him priuie to this caſe. In the meane time,

Doraſtus was not ſlacke in his affaires, but applied his matters with ſuch diligence, that he prouided all thinges fit for their iourney. Treaſure and Iewels he had gotten great ſtore, thinking there was no better friend then money in a ſtrange Countrey: rich attyre he had prouided for Fawnia: and becauſe he could not bring the matter to paſſe without the helpe and aduiſe of ſome one, he made an olde ſeruant of his called Capnio, who had ſerued him from his Child-hode, priuie to his affaires; who, ſeeing no perſwaſions could preuaile to diuert him from his ſetled determination, gaue his conſent, and dealt ſo ſecretly in the cauſe, that within ſhort ſpace he had gotten a ſhip ready for their paſſage. The Marriners ſeeing a fit gale of winde for their purpoſe, wiſhed Capnio to make no delayes, leſt if they pretermitted this good weather, they might ſtay long ere they had ſuch a faire winde. Capnio fearing that his negligence ſhould hinder the iourney, in the night time conueyed the Trunkes full of Treaſure into the Ship, and by ſecret meanes let Fawnia vnderſtand, that the next morning they meant to depart: ſhe vpon this newes ſlept very little that night, but got her vp very earely and went to her ſhrine, looking euery minute when ſhe ſhould ſee Doraſtus: who tarryed not long, for feare delay might breed danger: but came as faſt as he could gallop, and without any great circumſtance tooke Fawnia vp behinde him, and rode to the Hauen where the Ship lay, which was three quarters of a mile diſtant from that place. He no ſooner came there, but the Marriners were ready with their Cock-boate to ſet them aboard: where being coucht together in a Cabbine, they paſt away the time in recounting their olde loues, till their man Capnio could come. Porrus, who had heard that this morning the King would goe abroad to take the ayre, called in haſt to his wife to bring him his holy-day Hoſe, and his beſt Jacket, that he might goe like an honeſt ſubſtantiall man to tell his tale. His wife a good cleanly wench, brought him all thinges fit, and ſprunged him vp very handſomely, giuing him the Chaine and the Iewels in a little boxe: which Porrus for the more ſafety put in his boſome. Hauing thus his trinkets in a readineſſe, taking his ſtaffe in his hand, he bad his wife kiſſe him for good lucke, and ſo he went

went towards the Pallace. But as he was going Fortune (who meant to ſhew him a little falſe play) prevented his purpoſe in this wiſe.

He met by chance in his way Capnio, who trudging as faſt as he could with a little Coffer under his arme to the ſhip, and ſpying Porrus, whom he knew to be Fawniaes Father going towards the Pallace: being a wily fellow, began to doubt the worſt, and therefore croſt him the way, and asked him whether he was going ſo early in the morning.

Porrus (who knew by his face that he was one of the Court) meaning ſimply, tolde him that the Kings Sonne Doraſtus dealt hardly with him: for he had but one Daughter who was a little beautifull, and that his neighbours tolde him, the young Prince had allured her to folly: he went therefore now to complaine to the King how greatly he was abuſed.

Capnio (who ſtraight way ſmelt the whole matter) began to ſooth him in his talke, and ſaid, that Doraſtus dealt not like a Prince to ſpoyle any poore mans Daughter in that ſort: he therefore would doe the beſt for him he could, becauſe he knew he was an honeſt man. But (quoth Capnio) you loſe your labour in going to the Pallace: for the King meanes this day to take the ayre of the Sea, and to goe aboord of a ſhip that lyes in the Hauen: I am going before, you ſee, to provide all thinges in a readineſſe: and if you will follow my counſell, turne backe with me to the Hauen, where I will ſet you in ſuch a fit place as you may ſpeake to the King at your pleaſure. Porrus giving credit to Capnioes ſmooth tale, gave him a thouſand thanks for his friendly advice, and went with him to the Hauen, making all the way his complaint on Doraſtus; yet concealing ſecretly his Chaine and the Jewels. Aſſone as they were come to the Sea ſide, the Marriners ſeeing Capnio, came to land with their Cock-boate: who ſtill diſſembling the matter, demanded of Porrus if he would goe ſee the Ship? who unwilling and fearing the worſt, becauſe he was not well acquainted with Capnio, made his excuſe, that he could not brooke the Sea, and therefore would not trouble him.

Capnio, ſeeing that by faire meanes he could not get him aboord, commaunded the Marriners that by violence they ſhould

carry him into a ship, who like sturdy knaues hoysted the poore Shepheard on their backes, and bearing him to the Boate, lanched from the land.

Porrus seeing himselfe so cunningly betrayed, durst not cry out, for he saw it would not preuaile: but began to intreate Capnio and the Marriners to be good to him, and to pittie his estate, he was but a poore man that liued by his labour: they laughing to see the shepheard so afraid, make as much hast as they could to set him aboord. Porrus was no sooner in the ship, but he saw Dorastus walking with Fawnia, yet he scarce knew her: for she had attyred her selfe in rich apparell, which so increased her beauty: that she resembled rather an Angell, then a creature.

Dorastus and Fawnia were halfe astonished to see the olde Shepheard, maruelling greatly what winde had brought him thither, till Capnio tolde them all the whole discourse: how Porrus was going to make his complaint to the King, if by policie he had not preuented him, and therefore now sith he was aboord, for the auoyding of further danger, it were best to carry him into Italy.

Dorastus praised greatly his mans deuice, and allowed of his counsaile: but Fawnia (who still feared Porrus as her Father) began to blush for shame, that by her meanes he should either incurre danger or displeasure.

The olde Shepheard hearing this hard sentence: that he should on such a sodaine be carryed from his wife, his Countrey and Kinsfolke, into forraine land amongst strangers, began with bitter teares to make his complaint, and on his knees to intreat Dorastus, that pardoning his vnaduised folly, he would giue him leaue to goe home: swearing that he would keepe all thinges as secret as he could wish. But these protestations could not preuaile, although Fawnia intreated Dorastus very earnestly; but the Marriners hoysting their maine sayles weighed Anchors haled into the deepe, where we leaue them to the succour of the winde and Seas, and returne to Egistus.

WHo hauing appointed this day to hunt in one of his Forrests, called for his Sonne Dorastus to goe sport

himſelfe, becauſe he ſaw that of late he began to lowre: but his men made anſwere, that he was gone abroad none knew whither, except he were gone to the groaue to walke all alone as his cuſtome was euery day.

The King willing to waken him out of his dumpes, ſent one of his men to go to ſéeke him but in vaine: for at laſt he returned, but find him he could not, ſo that the King went himſelfe to goe ſée the ſport: where paſſing away the day, returning at night from hunting, he aſked for his ſonne, but he could not be heard of, which draue the King into a great choler: whereupon moſt of his Noble men and other Courtiers, poſted abroad to ſéeke him, but they could not heare of him through all Sycilia: onely they miſſed Capnio his man, which againe made the King ſuſpect that he was not gone farre.

Two or three daies being paſſed, and no newes heard of Doraſtus, Egiſtus began to feare that he was deuoured with ſome wilde beaſts, and vpon that made out a great troupe of men to goe ſéeke him: who coaſted through all the Countrey, and ſearched in euery dangerous and ſecret place, vntill at laſt they met with a Fiſherman, that was ſitting in a little couert hard by the Sea ſide mending his Nets, when Doraſtus and Fawnia tooke ſhipping: who being examined if he eyther knew and heard where the Kings ſonne was, without any ſecreſſe at all, reueaſed the whole matter, how he was ſayled two daies paſt, and had in his company his man Capnio, Porrus, and his faire daughter Fawnia. This heauy newes was preſently carried to the King, who halfe dead for ſorrow, commaunded Porrus wife to be ſent for: ſhe being come to the Pallace, after due examination, confeſſed that her neighbours had oft told her that the Kings Sonne was too familar with Fawnia her daughter: whereupon her husband fearing the worſt, about two dayes paſt (hearing the King ſhould goe on hunting) roſe earely in the morning, and went to make his complaint, but ſince ſhe neither heard of him, nor ſaw him. Egiſtus perceiuing the womans vnfeined ſimplicitie, let her depart without incurring further diſpleaſure, conceiuing ſuch ſecret griefe for his Sonnes wretcheſſe folly, that he had ſo forgotten his honour and Parentage, by ſo baſe a choyſe to diſho-

nour his Father, and diſcredite himſelfe, that with very care and thought he fell into a quartan feuer: which was ſo vnfit for his aged yeares and complexion, that he became ſo weake as the Phyſitions would grant him no life.

But his ſonne Doraſtus little regarded eyther Father, Countrey, or Kingdome, in reſpect of his Lady Fawnia: for Fortune ſmiling on this young nouice, ſent him ſo lucky a gale of wind, for the ſpace of a day and a night, that the Marriners lay and ſlept vpon the hatches: but on the next morning about the breake of the day, the ayre began to ouercaſt, the windes to riſe, the Seas to ſwell, yea preſently there aroſe ſuch a fearefull tempeſt, as the Ship was in danger to be ſwallowed vp with euery ſea, the maine Maſt with the violence of the wind was throwne ouer bord, the ſailes were torne, the tackling went a ſunder, the ſtorme raging ſtill ſo furiouſly that poore Fawnia was almoſt dead for feare, but that ſhe was greatly comforted with the preſence of Doraſtus. The tempeſt continued three daies, all which time, the Marriners euery minute looked for death, and the ayre was ſo darkned with clouds, that the Maſter could not tell by the compaſſe in what Coaſt they were. But vpon the fourth day about ten of the clocke, the winde began to ceaſe, the Sea to wax calme, and the ſkie to be cleare, and the Marriners diſcried the coaſt of Bohemia, ſhoting off their Ordinance for ioy that they had eſcaped ſuch a fearefull tempeſt.

Doraſtus hearing that they were arriued at ſome harbour, ſweetly kiſſed Fawnia, and bad her be of good cheere: when they told him that the Port belonged to the chiefe Cittie of Bohemia where Pandoſto kept his Court, Doraſtus beganne to be ſad; knowing that his Father hated no man ſo much as Pandoſto, and that the king himſelfe had ſought ſecretly to betray Egiſtus: this conſidered, he was halfe affraid to goe on land, but that Capnio counſelled him to change his name and his Countrey, vntill ſuch time as they could get ſome other Barke to tranſport them into Italy. Doraſtus liking this deuice, made his caſe priuie to the Marriners, rewarding them bountifully for their paines, and charging them to ſay, that hee was a Gentleman of Trapolonia called Meleagrus: The Mariners willing to ſhew what friendſhip they could to Dora-

ſtus, promiſed to be as ſecret as they could, or he might wiſh and vpon this, they landed in a little Village a Mile diſtant from the Cittie: where, after they had reſted a day, thinking to make proviſion for their marriage, the fame of Fawniaes beautie was ſpred throughout all the Citie, ſo that it came to the eare of Pandoſto: who then being about the age of fiftie, had notwithſtanding young and freſh affections: ſo that he deſired greatly to ſee Fawnia: and to bring this matter the better to paſſe, hearing they had but one man, and how they reſted at a very homely houſe, he cauſed them to be apprehended as ſpies, and ſent a dozen of his Guard to take them, who being come to their lodging tolde them the Kings Meſſage. Doraſtus no whit diſmayed accompanied with Fawnia and Capnio, went to the Court (for they left Porrus to kéepe the ſtuffe) who being admitted to the Kings preſence, Doraſtus and Fawnia with humble obeyſance ſaluted his Maieſty.

Pandoſto amazed at the ſinguler perfection of Fawnia, ſtood halfe aſtoniſhed, viewing her beautie, ſo that hee almoſt forgot himſelfe what he had to doe: at laſt with ſterne countenance he demanded their names, and of what Country they were, and what cauſed them to land in Bohemia? Sir (quoth Doraſtus) know that my name is Meliagrus, a Knight borne and brought vp in Trapolonia, and this Gentlewoman, whom I meane to take to my wife, is an Italian borne in Padua, from whence I haue now brought her. The cauſe I haue ſo ſmall a traine with me, is for that, her friends vnwilling to conſent, I intended ſecretly to conuey her into Trapolonia, whither I was ſayling, and by diſtreſſe of weather, I was driuen into theſe Coaſtes: thus haue you heard my name, my Countrey, and the cauſe of my voyage. Pandoſto ſtarting from his ſeate as one in choler made this rough reply.

Meliagrus, I feare, this ſmoth tale hath but ſmall truth, and that thou couereſt a foule ſkin with faire paintings. No doubt this Lady, by her grace and beauty, is of higher degree, more méete for a mighty Prince, then for a ſimple Knight: and thou like a periured traytor haſt bereft her of her Parents, to their preſent griefe, and her enſuing ſorrow: Till therefore I heare more of her Parentage, and of her calling, I will ſtay you

both here in Bohemia.

Doraſtus, in whom reſted nothing but Kingly valour, was not able to ſuffer the reproaches of Pandoſto, but that he made him this anſwere.

IT is not méete for a King, without due proofe to appeach any man of ill behauiour, nor vpon ſuſpition to inferre beliefe: Strangers ought to be entertained with courteſie: not to be intreated with cruelty, leaſt being forced by want to put vp iniuries, the Gods reuenge their cauſe with rigour.

Pandoſto hearing Doraſtus vtter theſe words, commaunded that he ſhould ſtraight be committed to priſon, vntill ſuch time as they heard further of his pleaſure: but as for Fawnia, he charged that ſhe ſhould be entertained in the Court, with ſuch courteſie as belonged to a ſtranger and her calling. The reſt of the ſhipmen put into the Dungeon.

Hauing thus hardly handled the ſuppoſed Trapolonians: Pandoſto contrary to his aged yeares began to be ſomewhat tickled with the beauty of Fawnia, inſomuch that he could take no reſt, but ceſt in his olde head a thouſand new deuiſes: at laſt he fell into theſe thoughts.

HOw art thou poſſeſſed Pandoſto with freſh affections, and vnfit fancies, wiſhing to poſſeſſe with an vnwilling minde, and a hot deſire troubled with a colde diſdaine? Shall thy minde yéeld in age, to that thou haſt reſiſted in youth? peace Pandoſto, blabbe not out that which thou mayſt be aſhamed to reueale to thy ſelfe. Ah Fawnia is beautifull, and it is not for thine honour (fond fole) to name her that is thy Captiue, and another mans Concubine. Alas, I reach at that with my hand, which my heart would faine refuſe: playing like the bird Ibis in Egypt, which hateth Serpents, yet féedeth on their Egges.

Tuſh, hote deſires turne oftentimes to colde diſdaine: Loue is brittle, where appetite, not reaſon, beares the ſway: Kinges thoughts ought not to climbe ſo high as the Heauens: but to loke no lower then honour: better is it to pecke at the Starres with the young Eagles, then to prey on dead carkaſſes with

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the Vulture: it is more honourable for Pandoſto to die by concealing Loue, then to inioy ſuch vnſit Loue. Doth Pandoſto then Loue? Yea. Whome? A maide vnknowne, yea and perhaps immodeſt, dragged out of her owne Countrey: beautifull, but not therefore chaſt: comely in body, but perhaps crooked in minde. Ceaſe then Pandoſto to looke at Fawnia, much leſſe to loue her: bee not ouertaken with a womans beautie, whoſe eyes are formed by Art to enamour, whoſe heart is framed by Nature to enchaunt: whoſe falſe teares know their true times, and whoſe ſwéet words pierce déeper then sharpe ſwords. Here ceaſt Pandoſto from his talke, but not from his loue: for although he ſought by reaſon and wiſdome, to ſuppreſſe this franticke affection: yet he could take no reſt, the beauty of Fawnia had made ſuch a déepe impreſſion in his heart. But on a day walking abroad into a Parke which was hard adioyning to his houſe, he ſent by one of his ſeruants for Fawnia, vnto whom he vttered theſe words.

FAwnia, I commend thy beauty and wit, and now pitty thy diſtreſſe and want: but if thou wilt forſake Sir Meleagrus (whoſe pouertie, though a Knight, is not able to maintaine an eſtate anſwerable to thy beauty) and yéld thy conſent to Pandoſto, I will both increaſe thée with dignities and riches. No Sir, anſwered Fawnia, Meleagrus is a Knight that hath wonne me by Loue, and none but he ſhall weare me: his ſiniſter miſchance ſhall not diminiſh my affection, but rather increaſe my good will: thinke not, though your Grace hath impriſoned him without cauſe, that feare will make me yéld my conſent: I had rather be Meleagrus wife, and a begger, then liue inplenty, and be Pandoſtoes Concubine. Pandoſto hearing the allured anſwere of Fawnia, would, notwithſtanding, proſecute his ſuite to the vttermoſt: ſéeking with faire words and great promiſes to ſcale the Fort of her chaſtitie: ſwearing that if ſhe would grant to his deſire, Meleagrus ſhould not onely be ſet at liberty, but honoured in the Court amongſt his Nobles: but theſe alluring baytes, could not intice her minde from the loue of her new betrothed Mate Meleagrus: which Pandoſto ſéeing, hée left her alone for that time to

consider more of the demand: Fawnia being alone by her selfe began to fall into these solitary meditations.

Ah infortunate Fawnia, thou seest, to desire above Fortune, is to strive above Gods and Fortune. Who gazeth at the Sunne, weaketh his sight: they which stare at the Skie, fall oft into deepe pitts: haddest thou rested content to have bene a Shepheard, thou needest not to have fearen mischance: better had it bene for thee, by sitting lowe, to have had quiet, then by climing high, to have falled into misery. But alas, I feare not mine owne danger, but Dorastus displeasure. Ah sweete Dorastus, thou art a Prince, but now a Prisoner, by too much love, procuring thine owne losse: haddest thou not loued Fawnia, thou haddest bene fortunate. Shall I then be false to him that hath forsaken Kingdomes for my cause? No, would my death might deliuer him, so mine honour might be preserued. With that, fetching a deepe sigh, she ceased from her complaints, and went againe to the Pallace, enioying a liberty without content, and proffered pleasure with small ioy. But poore Dorastus lay all this while in close prison, being pinched with a hard restraint, and pained with the burthen of colde and heauy Irons, sorrowing sometimes that his fond affection had procured him this mishap, that by the disobedience of his Parents, he had wrought his owne dispight: another while cursing the Gods and Fortune, that they would crosse him with sinister chance, uttering at last his passions with these wordes.

Ah vnfortunate wretch borne to mishap, now thy folly hath his desert: art thou not worthy for thy base minde, to have bad Fortune? Could the destinies fauour thee, which hast forgot thine honour and dignity? Will not the Gods plague him with dispight, that paineth his father with disobedience? Oh Gods, if any fauour or iustice be left, plague me, but fauour poore Fawnia, and shrowd her from the tyrannies of wretched Pandosto: but let my death free her from mishap, and then welcome death. Dorastus pained with these heauie passions, sorrowed and sighed, but in vaine, for which he vsed more patience. But againe to Pandosto, who broyling in the heate of vnlawfull lust, could take no rest, but still felt his minde disquieted

with his new loue, ſo that his Nobles and Subiects maruailed greatly at his ſodane alteration, not being able to coniecture the cauſe of this his continued care. Pandoſto thinking euery houre a yeare, till he had talked once againe with Fawnia, ſent for her ſecretly into his Chamber: whither Fawnia though vnwillingly comming, Pandoſto entertained her very courteouſly vſing theſe familiar ſpeeches, which Fawnia anſwered as ſhortly in this wiſe.

Pandoſto

Fawnia, are you become leſſe willfull and more wiſe, to preferre the loue of a King before the liking of a poore Knight? I thinke ere this you thinke it is better to be fauoured of a King, then of a Subiect.

Fawnia

Pandoſto, the body is ſubiect to victories, but the minde not to be ſubdued with Conqueſt: honeſty is to be preferred before honour, and a dram of faith weigheth downe a Tunne of golde, I haue promiſed Meleagrus to loue, and will performe no leſſe.

Pandoſto

Fawnia, I know thou art not ſo vnwiſe in thy choyce, as to refuſe the offer of a King, nor ſo vngratefull as to diſpiſe a good turne: thou art now in that place where I may commaund, and yet thou ſeeſt I intreate: my power is ſuch, that I may compell by force, and yet I ſue by prayers. Yeeld Fawnia thy loue to him which burneth in thy loue, Meleagrus ſhall be ſet free, the Countrey-men diſcharged, and thou both loued and honoured.

Fawnia.

I ſee Pandoſto, where luſt ruleth it is a miſerable thing to be a Virgin: but know this, that I will alwayes preferre fame before life, and rather chooſe death then diſhonour.

Pandoſto ſeeing that there was in Fawnia a determinate courage to loue Meleagrus; and a reſolution without feare to hate him, ſeeing away from her in a rage, he ſware, that if in ſhort time ſhe would not be won by reaſon, he would forget all courteſie and compell her to grant by rigour. But theſe threatning words no whit diſmayed Fawnia: but that ſhe ſtill both

deſpited and deſpiſed Pandoſto. While thus theſe two louers ſtroue, the one to winne loue, the other to liue in hate: Egiſtus heard certaine newes by Marchants of Bohemia, that his ſonne Doraſtus was impriſoned by Pandoſto: which made him feare greatly, that his Sonne ſhould be but haroly intreated: yet conſidering that Bellaria and he were cleared by the Oracle of Apollo, from the crime wherewith Pandoſto had vniuſtly charged them: hee thought beſt to ſend with all ſpeed to Pandoſto, that he ſhould ſet free his Sonne Doraſtus, and put to death Fawnia and her Father Porrus. Finding this, by the aduice of counſell, the ſpeediеſt remedy to releaſe his Sonne, he cauſed preſently two of his Ships to be rigged, and throughly furniſhed with prouiſion of men and victuals, and ſent diuers of his Nobles, Embaſſadors into Bohemia: who willing to obey the King, and receiue their young Prince, made no delayes, for feare of danger, but with as much ſpeed as might be ſayled towards Bohemia; the winde and Seas fauoured them greatly, which made them hope of ſome good hap; for within three dayes they were landed: which Pandoſto no ſooner heard of their arriuall, but he in perſon went to mete them, intreating them with ſuch ſumptuous and familiar courteſie, that they might well perceiue how ſory he was for the former iniuries he had offered to their King, and how willing (if it might be) to make amends. As Pandoſto made report to them how one Meleagrus a Knight of Trapolonia, was lately arriued with a Lady called Fawnia in his Land, comming very ſuſpitiouſly, accompanied onely with one Seruant and an olde Shepheard: the Embaſſadours perceiued by the halfe, what the whole tale meant, and began to coniecture that it was Doraſtus, who for feare to be knowne, had changed his name. But diſſembling the matter, they ſhortly arriued at the Court, where after they had bin very ſolemnly and ſumptuouſly feaſted, the Noblemen of Sycilia being gathered together, they made report of their Embaſſage; where they certified Pandoſto that Meleagrus was Sonne and Heyre to the King Egiſtus, and that his name was Doraſtus: and how contrary to the Kings minde he had priuily conueyed away that Fawnia, intending to marry her, being but Daughter to that poore Shepheard Porrus.

Whereupon the Kings requeſt was, that Capnio, Fawnia and Porrus might be murthered and put to Death, and that his Son Doraſtus might be ſent home in ſafety. Pandoſto having attentiuely and with great maruaile heard their Embaſſage, willing to reconcile himſelfe to Egiſtus, and to ſhew him how greatly he eſteemed his fauour: although Loue and fancy forbad him to hurt Fawnia, yet in deſpite of Loue he determined to execute Egiſtus will without mercy, and therefore he preſently ſent for Doraſtus out of priſon: who marualling at his vnlooked for courteſie, found at his comming to the Kings preſence, that which he leaſt doubted of, his Fathers Embaſſadours: who no ſooner ſaw him, but with great reuerence they honoured him: and Pandoſto embracing Doraſtus, ſet him by him very louingly in a Chaire of eſtate. Doraſtus aſhamed that his folly was bewrayed, ſate a long time as one in a maze, till Pandoſto tolde him the ſumme of his Fathers Embaſſage: which he had no ſooner heard, but he was touched at the quicke for the cruell ſentence that was pronounced againſt Fawnia: but neither could his ſorrow nor perſwaſions preuaile: for Pandoſto commaunded that Fawnia, Porrus, and Capnio ſhould be brought to his preſence: who were no ſooner come, but Pandoſto, hauing his former loue turned into diſdainefull hate, began to rage againſt Fawnia in theſe tearmes.

THou diſdainefull baſtall, thou curriſh kite, aſſigned by the deſtinies to baſe fortune, and yet with an aſpiring minde gazing after honour: how durſt thou preſume being a beggar, to match with a Prince? By thy allurings lookes to enchaunt the Sonne of a King, to leaue his owne Countrey to fulfill thy diſordinate luſts? O diſpightfull minde! A proud heart in a beggar, is not vnlike a great fire in a ſmall Cottage, which warmeth not the houſe, but burneth it: aſſure thy ſelfe thou ſhalt die: and thou olde doating fole, whoſe folly hath beene ſuch, as to ſuffer thy Daughter to reach aboue thy Fortune: looke for no other meede, but the like puniſhment. But Capnio, thou which haſt betrayed the King and haſt conſented to the vnlawfull luſt of thy Lord and Maſter, I know not how vildly I may plague thee: Death is too eaſie a puniſhment for thy falſe minde.

and to liue (if not in extreame miſery) were not to ſhew the equitie. I therefore award that thou ſhalt haue thine eyes put out, and continually till thou dyeſt, grinde in a Mill like a brute beaſt. The feare of death brought a ſorrowfull ſilence vpon Fawnia and Capnio: but Porrus ſéeing no hope of life, burſt forth into theſe ſpéeches.

PAndoſto, and yée Noble Embaſſadors of Sycilia, ſéeing without cauſe I am condemned to dye: I am yet glad I haue opportunity to diſburthen my conſcience before my Death: I will tell you aſmuch as I know, and yet no more then is true; whereas I am accuſed that I haue béene a ſupporter of Fawniaes pride, and ſhe diſdained as a vile beggar; ſo it is, that I am neither Father vnto her, nor ſhe daughter vnto me.

For it ſo happened that I being a poore Shepheard in Sycilia, liuing by keeping other mens flockes: one of my ſheepe ſtraying downe to the Sea ſide, as I went to ſeeke her, I ſaw a little boate driuen vpon the ſhoare, wherein I found a babe of fiue dayes olde, wrapped in a Mantle of Scarlet, hauing about the necke this Chaine: I pittying the Childe, and deſirous of the Treaſure, carried it home to my wife, who with great care nurſed it vp, and ſet it to keepe ſheepe. Here is the Chaine and Jewels, and this Fawnia is the Childe, whom I found in the boate: what ſhe is, or of what parentage I know not: but this I am aſſured, that ſhe is none of mine.

Pandoſto ſcarce would ſuffer him to tell forth his tale, but that he required the time of the yeare, the manner of the boate, and other circumſtances: which when he found agreeing to his count, ſodainly he leapt from his ſeat, and kiſſed Fawnia, wetting her tender cheekes with his teares, and crying my Daughter Fawnia, ah my ſweet Fawnia I am thy Father, Fawnia. This ſodaine paſſion of the King draue them all into a maze, eſpecially Fawnia and Doraſtus. But when the King had breathed himſelfe a while in this new Joy, he rehearſed before the Embaſſadours the whole matter, and how he had intreated his wife Bellaria for Jealouſie, and this was the Childe whome he ſent to floate in the Seas.

Fawnia was not more Joyfull that ſhée had found ſuch a

Father, then Doraſtus was glad he ſhould get ſuch a wife. The Embaſſadors reioyced that their young Prince had made ſuch a choyce: that thoſe Kingdomes which through enmitie had long time béene diſſeuered, ſhould now through perpetuall amitie be vnited and reconciled. The Citizens and Subiects of Bohemia (hearing that the King had found againe his Daughter which was ſuppoſed dead, ioyfull that there was an Heyre apparant to the Kingdome) made Bonefiers and ſhewes throughout all the Citty: The Courtiers and Knights appointed Juſtes and Turneyes, to ſignifie their willing mindes in gratifying the Kings hap.

Eightéene dayes being paſt in theſe Princely ſports, Pandoſto willing to recompence olde Porrus, of a Shepheard made him a Knight: which done, prouiding a ſufficient Nauy to receiue him and his retinue, accompanied with Doraſtus and Fawnia, and the Sycilian Embaſſadors: he ſayled towards Sycilia, where he was moſt Princely entertained by Egiſtus: who hearing this Comicall euent, reioyced greatly at his Sonnes good hap, and without delay (to the perpetuall ioy of the two young Louers) celebrated the marriage. Which was no ſooner ended, but Pandoſto (calling to minde how firſt he betrayed his friend Egiſtus, how his Iealouſie was the cauſe of Bellarias death, that contrary to the Law of Nature he had luſted after his owne Daughter) moued with theſe deſperate thoughts, he fell in a melancholy fit, and to cloſe vp the Comedy with a Tragicall ſtratageme, hee ſlew himſelfe: whoſe death being many dayes bewayled of Fawnia, Doraſtus, and his deare friend Egiſtus: Doraſtus taking leaue of his Father, went with his wife and the dead Corps into Bohemia: where, after it was ſumptuouſly entombed, Dorarius ended his dayes in contented quiet.

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FINIS.

Father, then Dorastus was glad he should get such a wife. The Embassadors reioyced that their young Prince had made such a choyce: that those Kingdomes which through emmitie had long time beene disseuered, should now through perpetuall amitie be united and reconciled. The Citizens and Rubiecks of Bohemia (hearing that the King had found against his Daughter which was supposed dead, ioyfull that there was an Heyre apparant to the Kingdome) made Bonefiers and shewes thorough out all the Litty: The Courtiers and Knights appointed Justes and Turneyes, to signifie their willing mindes in gratifying the Kings hap.

Eighteen dayes beeing past in these Princely sportes, Pandosto willing to recompence olde Porrus, of a Shepheard made him a Knight: which done, prouiding a sufficient Fraup to receiue him and his retinue, accompanied with Dorastus and Fawnia, and the Sycilian Embassadors: he sayled towards Sycilia, where he was most Princely entertained by Pylistus, [illegible] reioyced greatly of his Princes good hap, and without delay (to the perpetuall iey of the two young Lovers) celebrated the marriage. Which was no (owner ended) but Pandosto (calling to minde how he betrayed his friend Egiptus, [illegible] his Kinsman the rule of Bellarios [illegible] the Law of Nature he had lusted after his owne Daughter) vnoued with these desperate thoughts, he fell in a [illegible] fit, and to close up the Leuron with a Tragicall Catastrophe, her [illegible] Fawnia, Dorastus, and his beare friend Egiptus: Dorastus taking leaue of his Father, went with his wife and the dead Corps into Bohemia: where, after it was sumptuously entombed, Dorastus ended his dayes in contented quiet.

FINIS.